



# Jordan Times

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## 2 Israelis wounded in bomb attacks in Lebanon

TYRE, Lebanon (R) — Two Israeli soldiers were wounded by roadside bombs planted by pro-Iranian guerrillas in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon on Tuesday, security sources said. The Israeli army confirmed two soldiers on routine duty were wounded and flown to a Hadda city hospital. The first bomb was aimed at an Israeli patrol on a road between the villages of Talreh and Talloush, just north of the Israeli border with Lebanon, the security sources said. The second bomb blew up on the same road 20 minutes later as the Israelis sent reinforcements to the scene of the first blast, they added. The Islamic Resistance claimed responsibility for the two bombings and said five Israeli soldiers were killed and two military vehicles were destroyed. Israeli troops opened fire with artillery, tanks and heavy machineguns after the explosion and hunted for the guerrillas, who were believed to have detonated the bombs by remote control, the sources added.

## Iraq calls for new oil proposal

VIENNA (R) — The United Nations should submit a new plan to allow Iraq to export oil for food and humanitarian purposes, Iraqi Oil Minister Usama Al Hiti said Tuesday. "I think we are waiting for the opening of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' winter ministerial conference. The Security Council adopted a resolution in August allowing Iraq to export up to \$1.6 billion worth of oil and oil products over a six-month period to buy food and other civilian necessities. But Baghdad has refused to implement the scheme, which it considers a violation of its sovereignty. Under the plan, all proceeds from the oil sales would have to be paid into a special U.N. account, with about one third being funnelled off for Gulf war reparations and other war debts. The United Nations would also monitor all phases of the oil sales as well as the distribution of humanitarian supplies. "We do not accept Resolution 706 because it is impractical and I don't think it will help at all to bring food and medicine to our people," Mr. Hiti said. "Any other plan which is workable, honourable, I think we will accept it," Mr. Hiti said.

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## King visits army unit

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday visited the King Hussein Ben Ali Brigade where he was received by its commander and several of its officers. King Hussein was briefed by the commander on the duties and activities of the brigade and voiced his appreciation of the brigade's personnel. King Hussein was accompanied on the visit by his military secretary, His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad.

## Crown Prince sends message to Bashir

KHARTOUM (Petra) — Sudanese leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir Tuesday received a message from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan dealing with relations between Jordan and Sudan and ways of enhancing them. The message was delivered by the head of the anaesthesia unit at Al Hussein Medical City.

## Princess Basma opens centre in Jerash

AMMAN (J.T.) — As part of the Kingdom's ongoing celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday opened Jerash Special Education Centre in the Jerash area.

## Sharif Zaid visits GHQ

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker Tuesday visited the General Headquarters (GHQ) of the Jordanian Armed Forces where he met with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and chief of staff of land forces, Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb.

## Cabinet approves health, tourism allocations

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Council of Ministers Tuesday decided to make allocation totalling JD5.8 million towards improving health and tourism services and facilities in the Kingdom. The Cabinet approved plans to equip and furnish new hospitals and health centres at Tafleeh, Mafrag, Salt and Al Bashir Hospital in Amman. The total allocations for these projects will be JD5 million. The Council of Ministers agreed to set up a special fund to market Jordan abroad. It set aside a total of JD800,000 for this purpose.

## Faris Nabulsi to seek speakership

AMMAN (J.T.) — The nine-member Democratic Bloc in the Lower House announced Tuesday it was nominating Amman Deputy Faris Nabulsi as its candidate for the speakership of the House when Parliament reconvenes next week.

## Adnan Bakhit to head Muta

AMMAN (J.T.) — Dr. Adnan Bakhit was named Tuesday to head Muta University, informed sources said. Dr. Bakhit, who held the post of vice-president at the University of Jordan and who was a member of Jordan's delegation to the Madrid peace conference, replaces Dr. Awad Khleifat, who joined the government of Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker last week as minister of higher education. Dr. Bakhit holds a PhD in history.

## Yemeni plane makes emergency landing

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Yemeni airliner Tuesday made an emergency landing at Queen Alia International Airport after developing landing gear problems. A spokesman for the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) said the airport authorities took all necessary precautions in accordance with a standard emergency plan and the plane, which had only a five-member crew on board, landed safely, sustaining slight damage and no-one was hurt. According to the spokesman, the incident occurred at 4:40 p.m.. The airport authorities have opened an investigation.

# U.S. says no visas for PLO members

## Washington suggests Israel and Syria start discussing Golan withdrawal; Modai proposes guarantee-for-aid compromise

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States said on Tuesday it would not issue entry visas to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) members to advise Palestinians in proposed Middle East peace talks next week.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler also said the United States would not entertain conditions for attending the Dec. 4 Washington talks from any of the other Arab or Israeli parties.

"Our proposal is out there... we are not accepting conditions," Ms. Tutwiler said.

Jordan and Lebanon are the only countries to have accepted the invitations so far. The Israeli inner cabinet is to decide its response on Wednesday, while Ms. Tutwiler said Syria and the Palestinians had communicated "responses that show a readiness to respond positively, with some questions."

The Palestinians are pressing Secretary of State James Baker to use his discretionary powers to seek a waiver from the immigration law which bans PLO members from entering the United States.

But Ms. Tutwiler was adamant that Mr. Baker, who in the past has recommended such waivers for travel to the United Nations, for humanita-

rian situations and for certain academic conferences, would not issue them in this case.

"I believe when I mentioned the humanitarian example, I said in the instance of someone who is sick, who has a family member who could be dying," Ms. Tutwiler said.

"That is not in my mind a bilateral negotiation."

Ms. Tutwiler said it was up to the parties to the talks, which would follow on inaugural meetings held in Madrid at the end of October, to decide to come to Washington or not as they wished.

"If you choose to come, we think these are important talks. We believe that you believe they're important talks. And let us have your response."

The United States originally asked for responses by Monday but the deadline passed without official word from what most analysts consider the three most important parties — Israel, Syria and the Palestinians.

Earlier, diplomatic sources told Reuters the United States has proposed to Israel and Syria that they begin discussing a deal under which the Israelis would withdraw from occupied Syrian territory on the

Golan Heights in exchange for peace. Diplomatic sources told Reuters Monday the idea was floated in messages to both countries inviting them to Washington talks.

In another proposal, this time aimed at Israel and Lebanon, the United States proposed that an Israeli-backed Lebanese militia hand over control of the town of Jezzine in South Lebanon to the Lebanese army.

The sources said the proposal was termed a test case that could serve as a model and pave the way for a total Israeli withdrawal from its self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon.

Jezzine is north of the "security zone," which stretches about 20 kilometres into Lebanese territory beyond Israel's northern border. The town, controlled by the South Lebanon Army (SLA), a group armed, trained and financed by Israel, is a frequent flashpoint for clashes with Lebanese guerrillas.

The sources said the U.S. proposal on the Golan Heights was framed in hypothetical terms. It took no position on whether Israel should give up all the territory or where an eventual Israeli-Syrian border should be drawn.

"It said to the Israelis: 'Let us suppose that Syria is willing to offer real peace. How much territory

(Continued on page 5)

## West should honour deals and unfreeze cash — Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's health minister said Tuesday the West's refusal to unfreeze Iraqi assets to allow Baghdad to buy life-saving drugs was "the crime of the century."

Abdul Salam Mohammad Saeed challenged Western powers to live up to their human rights ideals by following the lead of Britain, which unfroze some assets at the weekend for Iraq to buy drugs in exchange for the freedom of jailed businessman Ian Richter.

"Releasing Richter was a concrete conclusion. There is no money for Iraq to buy medicine. The only money we have is frozen," the minister told Reuters in an interview.

Under the deal, Britain unfroze £70 million (\$125 million) to buy drugs, especially cancer-treatment medicine, which Baghdad had ordered in Britain. Mr. Richter served six years of a life sentence for bribery.

Britain was the first major Western power to loosen its grip on about \$4.5 billion of assets frozen in reprisal for Iraq's invasion of Kuwait 16 months ago.

The United Nations, which oversees a world trade blockade, says the governments can use their discretion about the frozen money and has exempted medicine and food from sanctions.

But Iraq complains that no government had unfrozen money and that 65,000 children died as a result and another 350,000 were at risk this winter. The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) says this figure is realistic.

"Of course, it is the crime of the century, uncivilised, against

## Baghdad ridicules reports of U.S. plans

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq Tuesday ridiculed suggestions that the United States was considering fresh options to dislodge President Saddam Hussein and said any Iraqi who fought to overthrow him would be a mercenary.

An official statement recalled that Baghdad's late bogymen, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini of Iran, had made President Saddam's overthrow a condition for ending the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

"The White House is playing the same failed game which Khomeini continued playing for eight years in which he linked the end of his war to President Saddam's continuation in power," the Iraqi Information Ministry said in a statement.

The declaration implicitly reminded Iraqis that Ayatollah Khomeini died in 1989, a year after agreeing to a halt to the first Gulf war, while President Saddam was still in power.

The ministry issued the statement following a Washington Post report which said the Bush administration was considering a fresh aggressive options to force President Saddam's overthrow.

It quoted unidentified senior U.S. officials as saying options included giving anti-Saddam rebels military training and spare parts or setting up an exiled provisional government (see page 2).



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday meets Libyan envoy Abu Zaid Omar Dourda. The Libyan envoy left Amman Tuesday evening (Petra photo)

## Jordan receives Libyan message on Pan Am case

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received a message from Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi on Libya's stand with regard to accusations that Libya masterminded the downing of a Pan Am plane over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988.

The message was delivered at the Royal Court by the secretary general of the Libyan People's Committee, Abu Zaid Omar Dourda.

Discussion at the meeting covered bilateral relations, and Mr. Dourda stressed Libya's keenness on promoting Jordanian-Libyan ties, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Adnan Abu Odeh and the King's advisor Khaleel Karaki as well as the Libyan ambassador.

Mr. Dourda said upon arriving in Amman earlier Tuesday that Libya had contacted a number of countries over the Pan Am issue and that their positions were positive. Contacts were held with Arab countries and Islamic nations as well as regional and international organisations, said Mr. Dourda, who is also the acting prime minister of Libya.

Asked on the prospect of Libya demanding a meeting of the Arab

League Council to discuss the issue, the envoy said that the whole question depends on the outcome of current contacts.

If the need arises, Libya will call for such meeting, he said.

Mr. Dourda said in Cairo earlier Tuesday Libya needed more time to respond to the Western charges that it masterminded the Pan Am bombing.

"A response to the charges will be made after the needed time to prepare a reply," Mr. Dourda told reporters after handing Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak a message from Col. Qadhafi.

"They (the United States and Britain) spent long years preparing the charges so we obviously need some time to deal with them from all angles and prepare an official response," he added.

Mr. Dourda said Col. Qadhafi's message to President Mubarak dealt "with the American threats against Libya."

Arrest warrants had been issued for two Libyans on murder charges arising from the bombing. Libya has denied any role in the mid-air explosion.

All 259 people on board the Pan Am airliner, flying from London

(Continued on page 5)

## Israeli troops attack Rafah house, arrest 3

OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP (R) — Israeli troops shot and wounded three wanted Palestinians Tuesday in a house in Rafah in the occupied Gaza Strip and then arrested them, the army said.

Palestinian sources said four Palestinians had been wounded and a total of eight arrested in the incident, which they described as an ambush by an undercover Israeli army unit.

Five of those arrested, they added, had been wanted by Israel for activism in the "Black Panthers" group which had attacked Palestinians suspected of aiding Israel.

The army said the incident occurred when Israeli troops became suspicious of a group of Palestinians who seemed to be hiding in a house in Rafah.

As the troops approached, one Palestinian opened fire with a pistol. The soldiers returned fire wounding three Palestinians, one seriously.

Three pistols and two grenades were found in the house, an army spokesman said.

In another development, Israel's attorney general has recommended that Jewish settlers

should be ordered to leave houses they seized in Arab East Jerusalem.

The seizure of eight houses last month in the neighbourhood of Silwan inflamed the emotions of Palestinians.

Attorney general Yosef Harish said it was up to the government to make a final decision on the matter but in his opinion the Israelis should leave the houses.

"The attorney general said, considering all the legal arguments, it follows that the police must... prevent the realisation of rights of ownership of the occupied houses," a statement from Mr. Harish's office said.

A group of armed Jewish settlers accompanied by right-wing politicians occupied the houses, saying they held legal title to the property in the area.

When a debate erupted over the legality of the takeover, the settlers agreed to leave all but one house while police continued to protect the other seven.

Mr. Harish conceded the settlers had "legal" ownership of the houses but said "professional and security considerations" were overriding in the case.

## King: Washington best venue for bilateral talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has said that Washington is the most appropriate venue for the second phase of the Middle East peace talks — bilateral Arab-Israeli negotiations.

In an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), King Hussein said it was impossible from a practical and psychological point of view to hold the talks in the Middle East.

The King said that "even if we intend to do so, it will take us a long time."

The King also said that peace talks cannot be held in the occupied Arab territories since that contravenes the Geneva Convention and "does not achieve what we are looking for."

He said that the opening of the Middle East conference in Madrid Oct. 30 was a good start and noted that the parties concerned are moving now towards bilateral talks.

The King expressed hope that the next phase will be followed by multilateral talks where all problems in the region will be discussed.

The King said Jordan is suffering from the return of more than 300,000 Jordanians and Palestinians from Kuwait. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinian returnees are in need of medical care and education and that Jordan is trying all means to help them, he said.

The King said the issue of the returnees is part of a broader problem which has to be tackled.

In an answer to a question, the King said Jordan did not try to claim sovereignty over the occupied territories. In fact, the King added, when a union took place between the eastern and western banks of the River Jordan in the early 1950s it was clear that Jordan would be responsible for the West Bank only until a solution to the Palestinian problem was found.

## Jordan finalises team

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian delegation to the Arab-Israeli bilateral talks in Washington was finalised Tuesday, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The delegation, which will be headed by Dr. Abdul Salam Majali, includes: General Abdul Hafez Marei from the Armed Forces; Dr. Fawaz Tarawneh, a former minister; Dr. Mawhib Eladad, an ex-chief of the Jordan Water Authority (JWA); Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, former head of the department of Palestinian Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Dr. Waleed Khalidi, professor of political science at Harvard University; Talal Al Hassan, Jordan's ambassador to Belgium and the European Community; Dr. Marwan Munshar, director of the Jordan Information Bureau in Washington; Musa Breizat, an advisor at the Royal Court; Awn Khasawneh, advisor to Jordan's permanent mission at the U.N.; Anwar Khanib, a former governor of Jerusalem; Mohammad Bani Hani a former head of JWA; and Nayef Al Qadi, ambassador to Qatar.

Ambassador Awad Khalid (France), Mohammad Adwan (the Soviet Union), and Fawad Ayoub (Britain) were dropped from the delegation that originally went to the Madrid peace conference.

Also dropped from the delegation was Dr. Adnan Bakheit, who is expected to be appointed president of Muta University to replace Dr. Awad Khleifat who now serves as minister of higher education.

The delegation is expected to leave Sunday or Monday for Washington.

## OIC delegation

The cabinet Tuesday finalised Jordan's delegation to the ministerial meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), which will be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, between Dec. 5 and 7. The delegation will be headed by Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Isa and will include as member of the Royal Commission on Jerusalem Affairs Rafei Najem, Secretary General of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ahmad Al-Hayel, Jordan's Non-Residential ambassador to Senegal Adnan Al Talhoumi, Jordan's Consul General in Jeddah Lu'ay Khashman, Ibrahim Al Nabulsi, a consultant at Jordan's embassy in Cairo, and the embassy's second secretary, Abdul Ilah Al Khatib.

## Parliament begins its session Sunday

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday opens Parliament's 13th session with a traditional speech from the Throne, an official announcement said Tuesday.

Following the speech, the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) will meet under the chairmanship of Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi while the Lower House will meet under the chairmanship of the oldest member of the House.

The Lower House will listen to a Royal Decree that postponed the reopening of the Lower House from October until Dec. 1, 1991.

According to the announcement, the Lower House will then elect a permanent bureau and the temporary speaker will ask the House members to elect three deputies to supervise the election of the House speaker and the House's committees.

After the speaker is elected, the House will choose a committee to draft a reply to the speech

from the Throne and will elect two deputies to the speaker and permanent financial, legal, administrative and foreign affairs committees.

In the previous session additional committees were set up. These were those of public freedoms and citizens rights, agricultural affairs, health and environment, education, Palestine and the occupied Arab land, rural regions and badia, and water strategy.

The race for the speakership of the Lower House is already under way.

Abdul Majeed Shreideh has been nominated by the Constitution Bloc, Abdul Latif Arabiyat is the Muslim Brotherhood candidate, and former Speaker Saleman Arar is the National Bloc's nominee.

The contestants represent the three largest blocs in Parliament and observers expect the battle for the speakership to be heated.

# The peace process and the workings of political forces in Jordan

This is the third in a series of articles analysing Jordan's democratic experiment, with special emphasis on the experience of the government of Prime Minister Taher Masi, who resigned last week.

By Lamis K. Andoni  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — When former Prime Minister Taher Masi was designated last June, his opponents scornfully branded his government as the "cabinet of negotiations with Israel." His resignation last week indicated that opposition to the peace process, particularly by the influential Muslim Brotherhood, remains strong but it is not the only factor that shapes Jordanian power politics.

tion to the peace talks, in addition to demands for an immediate repeal of all restrictions on political freedoms, were crucial to getting a number of pan-Arab nationalists and leftists to sign the petition.

The fact that leftist deputies Messour Murad, Hani Saliyab, and Fakhri Kawaq signed the petition contributed to weakening Mr. Masi's position because it showed a significant split among the ranks of his main supporters in the Jordan Arab National Democratic Alliance (JANDA), which is the umbrella organisation for the major leftist parties in the Kingdom.

Although the petition did not lead to the breakup of JANDA, it showed that the leftist coalition

could not bind its members by a unified position over the peace process.

Opposition to the peace process could have played a more crucial and negative role further undermining the Masi government had the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) not authorised Palestinian involvement in the process.

Sources from the Masi government have said that many of the ministers felt that their position would have been seriously undermined if the PLO had rejected participation.

According to political analysts, many Jordanian politicians and political activists are reluctant to accept or like Jordan to be viewed as the country that

accepted a historic compromise over Palestine.

Furthermore, both the government or at least some ministers guarded themselves against being perceived or used — in this case by the U.S. — as a substitute for the PLO. In this case, Mr. Masi's Palestinian origin and his family's influence in the Israeli-occupied West Bank could have only served to perpetuate such an image and enhance these suspicions, particularly if the PLO had decided to boycott the peace talks.

A number of ministers, according to well-informed sources, were prepared to resign if the PLO had not accepted the talks, while the majority of JANDA members was expected to

demand the withdrawal of five of the ministers it had named to be its representatives in the government.

JANDA is said to have had a difficult time with some ministers, including those who resigned citing different reasons like "our conscience could not accept talks with Israel."

The issue of peace talks with Israel will continue to play an important role, not because of the sensitivity of the Jordanian position and to the historic Jordanian-Palestinian relationship but also because of the extremely strong influence that pan-Arab political thought has on both the establishment and the opposition.

For example, there has been

hardly any cabinet, especially in the last decade, which did not include one or more former Baathist or pan-Arab nationalists.

With the exception of a few, most of these officials and former ministers are still very influenced by pan-Arab thinking, which in its extreme or even ideological sense, refuses the idea of territorial compromise with Israel.

Pan-Arab nationalists from various trends and affiliations are also influential in JANDA and the other political groups in Jordan.

"Jordan's declared commitment to Palestinian national rights and His Majesty King Hussein's refusal to join the

(Continued on page 5)



## Big compensation proposed for victims of Iraqi invasion

GENEVA (R) — Women raped by Iraqi troops during the occupation of Kuwait should receive up to \$5,000 compensation and relatives who were forced to witness the act should get half that, a United Nations study proposes.

Under its proposals thousands of Westerners taken from Kuwait to act as a "deterrent against attack in Iraq, in the early days of the occupation would receive as much as \$15,000 each.

The study, a working paper for a meeting this week of the U.N. body set up to process claims, against Iraq, fixed possible payments for those who suffered "mental pain and anguish" at the hands of Iraqi occupying forces.

Payment of compensation by Iraq is still hypothetical since Baghdad has refused to make the oil sales which would pay for it.

A U.N. Security Council resolution in August, number 706, authorised Iraq to sell \$1.6 billion worth of crude oil to pay for urgently needed food and medicine.

Iraq has refused to sell the oil because 30 per cent of the revenue would go straight into the compensation fund. It says such conditions threaten its sovereignty.

The commission processing claims against Iraq, whose gov-

erning council is made up of delegates from the 15 members of the U.N. Security Council, began its third working session in Geneva Monday.

U.N. special envoy Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan failed to persuade Iraq Sunday to renew their oil sales.

At earlier meetings the commission suggested that a fixed sum of at least \$2,500 — some members suggested \$5,000 — should be paid to those forced to flee Kuwait during the seven-month occupation.

With up to two million people coming into that category, this could cost Iraq as much as \$10 billion without even considering thousands of additional unlimited claims for documented losses.

For ease of payment, the study split the victims of mental pain and anguish into seven categories, setting what it called "fairly modest" ceilings or fixed amounts of compensation.

The seven categories were: — Those who lost a spouse, child or parent during the occupation or war (\$15,000, with a limit per family of \$40,000)

— Those who lost a limb or use of a limb, or who suffered severe disfigurement or loss of a bodily function such as sight (\$15,000 with a \$5,000 ceiling if the injury or loss was only temporary).

— Rape victims or those who suffered severe beatings or torture (\$5,000 per incident)

— Those who witnessed any of the above happening to their spouse, child or parent (\$2,500)

— Those held hostage or illegally detained for more than three days (\$3,000 for first three days plus up to \$100 a day after that)

— Those who were forced into hiding in Iraq or Kuwait because of a "well-founded fear" of death or being taken hostage (\$1,500 for first three days plus up to \$50 a day after that)

— Those "deprived of all economic resources, such as to threaten seriously his or her survival" (\$2,500 or a maximum of \$10,000 per family, under certain conditions)

Diplomats said the mental anguish payments "could add hundreds of millions of dollars to the total Iraq would be expected to pay.

About 3,000 Westerners were taken hostage by Iraq, and many stayed in captivity for four months. Under the proposals they would therefore be eligible for compensation of around \$15,000.

Thousands more Kuwaitis were also taken to Iraq and Kuwait says 2,100 of them are still missing.

## Kuwait plans defence pacts with Britain and France

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's Defence Minister Ali Salem Al Sabah has said the emirate planned to sign defence pacts with Britain and France.

Kuwait's post-Gulf war defence would depend on forming an army with new technology and training and on security agreements with "brotherly states" like the United States, he added.

The United States and Kuwait signed a 10-year defence cooperation pact in September to stockpile military supplies in the emirate.

The agreement also provides for regular joint U.S.-Kuwaiti military training and exercises.

Sheikh Ali, speaking in a lecture at the faculty of political science and economy at the Kuwait University, said it would take two years to clear thousands of land mines sown last year by Iraqi troops.

"This does not mean that Kuwait will be 100 per cent free from mines after two years," he added.

At least 84 mine disposal experts had been killed so far in the clearing operation, he said.

An estimated 62,000 mines and 12,000 tonnes of ammunition had been removed since Kuwait U.S.-led forces liberated it in February.

Iraq mined Kuwait's desert, sea, oilfields and military sites. Kuwait's waters and shipping lanes were cleared of mines in October.

The minister said rebuilding Kuwait's 20,000-man army, shattered by Iraq's invasion, would take time. He said 80 per cent of the emirate's military installations, institutions and equipments were destroyed during Iraqi bombing and looting.

He said Kuwait would receive the first consignment of U.S.-made F-18 warplanes in the first quarter of 1992 under a 1988 purchase agreement.

## Britain says it was duped by Iraqi 'deception' over 'supergun'

LONDON (R) — Iraq engaged in a sophisticated deception to dupe the British government into allowing the sale of massive steel tubes that helped build Baghdad's "supergun," a government official said Tuesday.

Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) official John Medway, speaking on the opening day of a parliamentary investigation into the alleged sales of military equipment to Iraq, said the supergun affair had exposed weaknesses in Britain's export control system.

"We were at the receiving end of a very sophisticated deception (by Iraq) which was partly successful," Mr. Medway, responsible for the DTI's overseas trade section, told parliament's trade and industry committee.

But he added that an even bigger Iraqi weapon was never completed because British customs officers seized part of the gun before it left the country.

A consignment of eight steel cylinders bound for Iraq was seized in April last year. The British government said they were intended for a supergun, but Iraq said they were destined for a petrochemical plant.

In July this year, however, documents supplied to the United Nations confirmed Western intelligence suspicions before the Gulf war that Iraq was building a "supergun" — a long-range weapon capable of firing shells more than 1,000 kilometres.

Mr. Gotesman, 21, a student at Touro college and the Hebrew University in Israel, was asked by lead prosecutor William Greenbaum if he could recognise the man he saw shoot Kahane twice.

Mr. Gotesman stared at the defendant and without hesitation replied: "He's sitting over there wearing a white shirt."

Mr. Nosair showed no emotion when he was identified.

Testifying in Manhattan supreme court, Mr. Gotesman said he was standing near Kahane when a "man with a gun" fired two shots. "He didn't run. He moved quickly. He was hunched over."

Mr. Gotesman said he also witnessed the shooting of another man, Irving Franklin, 74, who had tried to block Mr. Nosair's escape from the hotel room. Mr. Franklin was shot in the leg.

After chasing Mr. Nosair into the street, Mr. Gotesman said he saw the defendant in the back seat of a taxi. "I saw his face. I saw him look at me. I was scared. He was carrying a gun... and pointing it at me."

After Mr. Nosair was shot in a shootout with a postal officer, Mr. Gotesman said Mr. Nosair looked "serene, smiling slightly."

Earlier questioning by defence lawyers of a key witness regarding finances of the extremist rabbi was blocked by the judge. The defence was attempting to show that Kahane was murdered by someone close to him in his anti-Arab movement over a dispute about missing funds.

Israel Katz, 40, a Kahane supporter who was collecting money for the rabbi for a yeshiva in Israel, admitted on cross examination by defence lawyer William Kunstler that until May, 1991 he had control of funds in one of two bank accounts for about three years.

But when Mr. Kunstler began to ask Mr. Katz a series of questions relating to a dispute he had regarding the "stealing of funds," Judge Alvin Schlesinger sustained most all of the prosecutor's objections.

The judge called the defence's conspiracy theory nothing more than "a smoke screen... that was pure speculation."

There are 35,000 Indian Jews in Israel and about 6,000 in India, Mr. Leibler said.

The consul is Israel's only diplomatic post in India.



JORDAN HONOURS MALAYSIAN AIR CHIEF: His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday conferred the Al Kawkab Medal of the First Order on the visiting Malaysian air force commander, Lieutenant General Dato Seri Al Haj Mohammad Yusoff Ben Mohammad Tasi, and Al Istighlal Military Medal on members of delegation accompanying him. The medals were presented by the commander of the Royal Jordanian air force at a ceremony at the Air Force Command Tuesday morning. The ceremony was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal and several officers.

## Witness says Nosair shot Kahane

NEW YORK (R) — A witness in the trial of the accused killer of Meir Kahane Monday identified defendant Al Sayyid Nosair as the man he saw shoot the extremist rabbi.

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After Mr. Nosair was shot in a shootout with a postal officer, Mr. Gotesman said Mr. Nosair looked "serene, smiling slightly."

Earlier questioning by defence lawyers of a key witness regarding finances of the extremist rabbi was blocked by the judge. The defence was attempting to show that Kahane was murdered by someone close to him in his anti-Arab movement over a dispute about missing funds.

Israel Katz, 40, a Kahane supporter who was collecting money for the rabbi for a yeshiva in Israel, admitted on cross examination by defence lawyer William Kunstler that until May, 1991 he had control of funds in one of two bank accounts for about three years.

But when Mr. Kunstler began to ask Mr. Katz a series of questions relating to a dispute he had regarding the "stealing of funds," Judge Alvin Schlesinger sustained most all of the prosecutor's objections.

The judge called the defence's conspiracy theory nothing more than "a smoke screen... that was pure speculation."

There are 35,000 Indian Jews in Israel and about 6,000 in India, Mr. Leibler said.

The consul is Israel's only diplomatic post in India.

## U.S. reviewing Iraq policy as election year nears

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States said Monday it was reviewing its policy towards Iraq, which could be a weakness for President George Bush in the 1992 election campaign because Saddam Hussein remains in power in Baghdad.

Spokesman for the White House and the State Department did not specifically deny a Washington Post story which said the Bush administration was considering a more aggressive campaign to force the overthrow of President Saddam, who has survived the Gulf war and unprecedented international sanctions.

But they reiterated the somewhat confusing U.S. position of expressing determination to keep intense pressure on Iraq so long as President Saddam remains in power, while insisting the policy is not aimed at a single person.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said the review was meant to ensure "our policies are having the greatest effect possible."

"Saddam cannot be redeemed and all possible sanctions must be maintained as long as he is in power. That is our standard policy," she told reporters.

With Mr. Bush as he delivered an education speech in Columbus, Ohio, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater echoed Ms. Tutwiler in affirming that an Iraq policy review was under way.

But like Ms. Tutwiler, he played it down, saying: "The deputation committee continues to review it (Iraq policy) all the time. That's ongoing but there's no special review. Our review of the Iraq situation is continuous. It's been going on ever since the (Gulf) war. It's still aimed at getting compliance with the U.N. resolutions, and that is our primary purpose. There is no U.N. resolution that authorises anything aimed at Saddam Hussein."

The Washington Post, quoting unidentified senior U.S. officials, said administration proposals under review included giving Iraqi rebels military training and spare parts, or helping to protect provisional, alternative government which some insurgents wanted to establish in northern Iraq.

The newspaper said Mr. Bush, frustrated by the inconclusive end to the Gulf war, faced new criticism from opposition Democrats in Congress and challengers in next year's presidential elections.

But officials differed on whether any plan to oust President Saddam was worth the effort, the newspaper said.

U.S. intelligence experts believed the plans would fail, largely because they depended upon some degree of American leverage over internal Iraqi politics and some degree of cooperation among Iraqi rebel groups, the Post reported.

Asked if the United States planned to do something, Mr. Fitzwater said: "We don't comment on actions."

Asked about possible assistance to Iraqi rebels, he replied: "We don't discuss covert aid."

At the State Department daily news briefing, Ms. Tutwiler asserted: "Our policy is that the Iraqi people deserve a new Iraqi leadership."

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## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Uranium found in Iraq not of local origin

UNITED NATIONS (R) — United Nations inspectors have found traces of highly enriched weapons-grade uranium in the environment around an Iraqi nuclear facility which they do not think Iraq produced, according to a report circulated here Monday. Iraq denied having produced or acquired such material. The source of the enriched uranium remains an important open issue still under investigation, the report said. It gave details of an inspection conducted by experts from the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) between Oct. 11 and 22. This was the seventh probe of Iraqi nuclear facilities under a Security Council resolution adopted after the Gulf war calling for the location and scrapping of Baghdad's nuclear potential and weapons of mass destruction. Detailing finding at a nuclear centre 30 kilometres south of Baghdad, the report said: "Evidence of uranium enriched to 93 per cent has persistently shown up in samples collected in and near Al Tuwaitha (at four different locations). This material is... unlikely to be a product of the Iraqi enrichment programme. The Iraqi authorities deny ever acquiring or producing such material. This important issue is still open and under investigation." The report said additional samples of the material were taken for that purpose. U.N. nuclear experts have estimated that Iraq was about a year or so away from being able to produce a nuclear weapon.

### Besharati in talks with Omani ruler

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian First Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati met Sultan Qaboos in Muscat on Monday, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported. It said Sultan Qaboos told Mr. Besharati Oman was interested in broadening its relations with Iran in all fields. "Besharati emphasised that cooperation among the regional states... will result in stability and security of the Persian Gulf region," it said. Mr. Besharati arrived in Muscat Monday with a message for Sultan Qaboos from Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, IRNA said.

### Iran links arms ship and pipeline plan

NICOSIA (R) — A dispute between Turkey and Iran over an impounded shipload of arms raised doubts about a plan to pump Iranian oil and gas to Europe across Turkish territory, the Iranian news agency IRNA said Monday. An IRNA commentary said more than a month had passed since Turkish authorities "illegally" seized the 2,700-tonne Cyprus-registered Cape Maleas with its shipment of arms for Iran. Iran had tried to resolve the dispute through diplomatic channels but "the different power centres in Ankara" were scheming to frustrate its "good-neighbourly efforts," it added. "It is worth reflecting for officials and people in Turkey not to overlook the damage which is likely to afflict their country through factional or individual position-taking," it said. The commentary said Turkey had for a long time been urging Iran "to use Turkish soil as a transit route for Iranian oil and gas pipelines to Europe." IRNA said President Turgut Ozal formally raised the matter during a visit to Turkey by President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. "The multi-billion project, which could uplift Turkey's sagging economy, was expected to top plans for economic cooperation between the two Muslim neighbours, but the seizure of the Cape Maleas raises a number of unanswered questions," it added. "How can the Turkish government guarantee to keep such trunks open?" it asked. Turkey closed Iraq's oil export pipelines through its territory last year after Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait.

### Saudi Arabia supports Washington talks

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia expressed support on Monday for U.S. proposals to resume Middle East peace talks in Washington next week. A government spokesman, quoted by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), said the kingdom had a "constant interest in the success of efforts to establish a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East." He wished participants all success in their talks, proposed for Dec. 4. Arab-Israeli peace talks opened in Madrid on Oct. 30 but were adjourned several days later without agreement on when or where the next stage would take place.

### Rebel Kurds kill soldier near Istanbul

ISTANBUL (R) — A group of rebel Kurds attacked a gendarme on the outskirts of Istanbul late Monday, killing one soldier and wounding five others, the semi-official Anatolian news agency reported Tuesday. The rebels hurled explosives into the station in Pasok district and then raked it with gunfire. Unidentified callers to Istanbul newspapers claimed the attack on behalf of the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), which has been fighting for an independent state for Turkey's 10 million Kurds since 1984. More than 3,300 people have died in PKK-related violence.

### Sutherland returns to U.S.

DALLAS (R) — Former Lebanese hostage Thomas Sutherland, cheerful and grinning broadly, arrived Monday in the United States to join the rest of his family for Thanksgiving, the traditional American holiday for feasting and giving thanks. Mr. Sutherland, freed eight days ago after nearly six and a half years in captivity, told reporters at the Dallas/Fort Worth airport that his doctors were more concerned than he was about a stomach ulcer that had delayed his departure from the medical facility at Wiesbaden air base in Germany. He was accompanied on the flight from Frankfurt by his wife, Jean, and their two younger daughters, Mr. Sutherland, who looked pale and had a cold sore on his lip, acknowledged he had "been quite ill, once or twice," during his captivity "with vomiting and diarrhoea." Scottish-born Sutherland, a naturalised U.S. citizen, was dean of agriculture at American University of Beirut when he was kidnapped in June 1985.

### Women welcome to fly Turkish airliners

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey is for the first time recruiting female pilots to fly passenger planes. "We need new pilots and women are more than welcome to apply," Engin Oktamer, a spokesman for state-run Turkish Airlines, said. "We are no longer discriminating. If men can fly jet aircraft, why not women?" Mr. Oktamer said the airline, in operation since 1933, is looking for women pilots through advertisements.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TYPE  
18:00 Le Monde en Vues  
19:00 News in French  
19:15 Azimut  
19:30 News in Hebrew  
20:00 News in Arabic  
21:00 Kato and allies  
21:30 Cosmos  
22:00 News in English  
22:30 Equal Justice

### PRAYER TIMES

06:45 Fajr  
07:00 (Sunrise) Dhuhr  
11:25 Dhuhr  
14:15 Asr  
16:35 Maghrib  
17:50 Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 610740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel.

637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terremata Church Tel. 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541  
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751  
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 611285  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, 654932  
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675891

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
The Kingdom will be under the effect of unstable weather conditions Wednesday. Therefore, clouds increase gradually and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain. A drop in temperatures is expected and winds will be westerly moderate. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy and windy with northerly moderate and

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Abdul Qader Al Lala 690446  
Dr. Ghaleb Zaidieh 726123  
Dr. Rihq Abu Zaidieh 894295  
Dr. Yousef Al Fagih 6799



## Seminar on nursing issues concludes

AMMAN (J.T.) — A seminar organised by the Institute for Specialised Nursing Studies (ISNS) in Jordan ended in Amman today.

The annual seminar, which is an integral part of the institute's teaching programmes, reviewed national and international issues affecting nursing education and nursing services in Jordan. It was organised to provide a better understanding of the role of nurses and midwives in developed and developing countries.

A number of Jordanian and international experts participated in the seminar which concluded with a lecture by JoAnn Harrison, wife of the U.S. ambassador to Jordan, on "The History and Role of the Community Health Nurse in the U.S."

The theme of Mrs. Harrison's lecture was of special importance to Jordan because the main objective of the ISNS is to prepare Jordanian nurses and midwives for community health service.



Military attaches accredited to Jordan yesterday media in the Kingdom and the operations at the visited the Jordan Times for a briefing on the role of Jordan Press Foundation.

## Discovery of church leads to excavation for whole city at Petra

By Serene Halasa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The discovery of a 4th century Byzantine church in Petra has paved the way for the unearthing of a whole Nabatean, Roman Byzantine city buried under sand, according to an American archaeologist.

"The actual city of Petra lies in the centre of the valley or what is known as Wadi Musa," said Dr. Kenneth Russell, the American archaeologist who first discovered the remains of the church. "Minimally it dates to the fifth century, but we think it could well be the fourth because it fits with the ecclesiastical history of Petra."

Dr. Russell, an employee with the American Centre for Orient Research (ACOR), said that this served as the capital of the third Palestine province, which included areas in the Negev and Sinai as well as areas south of the city of Karak. The city continued to serve as the capital of the province until the sixth century, the time of Islamic conquest.

"This city was buried with sand from earthquakes and drift sand over the 1000 plus years when the city was abandoned," Dr. Russell said.

The first indication that such a city existed came with the discovery of a paved road. "Bit by bit we are discovering parts of this ancient buried city," said Dr. Russell, who first made the formal recording of the church in 1990 during his post-doctoral research trip to Jordan.

The actual location of the church has not been revealed for security purposes, but according to Dr. Russell, this church might have been the principal church of the province.

"It is a large church the size of a cathedral. It is 30 metres in length and 18 in width and its walls appeared to be standing two to three metres," Dr. Russell said.

He added that the ceiling and walls of the church were covered by glass mosaics that have started to peel off because of the natural decomposition of structure.

He said that the fine quality of the mosaics found around the area where the discovery was made could easily be compared to the mosaics of the famous St. Catherine Church in Sinai, Egypt, and many even pre-date it.

"The quality of the mosaics rivals some of the finest mosaics found in the world,"

Dr. Russell said. "If the church actually dates to the fourth century, then the mosaics are the earliest church mosaics found anywhere in the world."

Dr. Russell also said that the quality of the mosaics confirms that they must have been done during the economic high-points of the fourth century, since the city of Petra went into economic decline in the fifth and sixth centuries.

"We need to excavate and save the mosaics at the same time," Dr. Russell said. "And because the mosaics are peeling off, we will need to pull them from the backside and this is a very expensive and delicate process."

In cooperation with the Ministry of Planning and the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, a sum of \$475,000 was secured from USAID to pay for the specialised equipment needed for excavation, in addition to acquiring a highly-trained and experienced mosaic staff to handle the delicate process of peeling and conserving the mosaics.

Mosaic experts will be brought in from the Getty Institute as well as the Ravenna Institute, which deals with Byzantine churches in northern Italy.

"They have experience dealing with wall and ceiling

mosaics," Dr. Russell said. "And they are also experts in the cultivation and conservation of mosaics."

Dr. Russell, who will head the core team of the excavation expedition scheduled to start in May 1992, said he hoped that the core team would include Jordanian archaeologists such as Dr. Khyriah Amr from the Department of Antiquities and Dr. Ghazi Bisheh, the former director of the Department of Antiquities. The team will also include Dr. Robert Schick, a specialist in early church discovery in Jordan and Dr. Zbigniew Fiema, a specialist in economics and administration of Byzantine province of third Palestine province.

The project is expected to last between one to two years in which delicate excavation will be done around the area to stabilise the building, conserve the mosaics and build a structure around the church to protect it from natural element.

The discovery of the church will certainly enhance tourist attraction to Petra. "Many tourists come to Petra, but all they see are magnificently carved tomb facades," Dr. Russell said. "Once the excavation is under way, the findings will not only be a national treasure for Jordan, but indeed a world treasure."

## Jordan reiterates importance of implementing U.N. resolutions

NEW YORK (Petra) — Jordan has told the United Nations General Assembly that the peace process which started in Madrid does not conflict with the United Nations efforts to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict as both aim to achieve a lasting and just peace in the region.

Jordan's U.N. ambassador, Abdullah Salah, said that the Madrid peace conference and all the efforts exerted earlier to help achieve peace based on justice and international legitimacy have reaffirmed the importance of implementing U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He reaffirmed the importance of the United Nations role in implementing those resolutions to bring about an exchange of land for peace, to enable the Palestinians to regain their political and

legitimate rights and to ensure peace and security for all nations of the region.

At the same time, the Israeli leaders are continually showing intransigence and opposition to peace by holding on to the occupied Arab territories in violation of U.N. principles and the U.N. charter, Mr. Salah said in an address to the assembly.

For a durable peace to be established, Israel is required to withdraw from all the occupied Arab lands, including Arab Jerusalem, and halt the settlement programme in Arab lands, he said. It must also recognise the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland, Mr. Salah said.

As the U.N. General Assembly is ending its discussions on the Palestine issue during the present session, its members are called

upon to reaffirm the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination on their national soil, Mr. Salah added.

He said that there is an urgent need for reaching a just and durable settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and a just solution to the Palestine problem on the basis of the U.N. charter and international legitimacy.

Mr. Salah said that the Madrid peace conference represents a serious effort and a new initiative on the road to finding a just solution to the problem and the implementation of U.N. resolutions.

The peace process is a real test for the world community to reaffirm the dominance of international law and rules, he said.

The Arab countries directly

involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt as well as the Palestine Liberation Organisation, have all accepted U.N. resolutions. Those resolutions call for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from lands occupied since 1967, the right for all countries in the region to live in peace and security within recognised borders, the acceptance by the Palestinians of two states on Palestinian soil, a solution to the refugee problem in accordance with U.N. General Assembly resolution 194 of 1948 and halting construction of Israeli settlements on Arab land.

In contrast, Mr. Salah pointed out, Israel has violated all these resolutions and continued to drive out Arab citizens to build settlements and deprive the Palestinians of their rights.

## Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions vows to reject altered draft labour law

By Elia Nasrallah  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions will not accept any change in the substance of the new draft labour law as was submitted to the Prime Ministry for approval, especially if there were changes in the fourth and 16th articles about arbitrary dismissal of workers and the organisation of unions, according to federation Secretary General Abdul Halim Khaddam.

The federation's executive council conveyed this message to Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Kabarti during a meeting with him Monday and the minister has promised to discuss the matter with the Legislative Council at the Prime Ministry. The minister said the council should restrict its work to mere drafting of the final version of the law, Mr. Khaddam said in a telephone

call to the Jordan Times.

Mr. Kabarti's stand during the discussion of the new labour law and the question of organising unions and the arbitrary dismissal of workers was totally positive and he showed understanding of the federation's demands, Mr. Khaddam said.

He said that the federation council members made it clear at the meeting that the draft law in its original form as submitted to the Prime Ministry contained only the minimum demands of the workers, and therefore any change in its articles would not be acceptable to the federation.

In a statement Saturday Mr. Khaddam said that the Prime Ministry's Legislative Council passed a different version of the submitted draft in a manner considered as detrimental to workers' interests.

Mr. Khaddam said that to help pass the draft law, the

federation had reached a compromise with the Ministry of Labour about Article 16, which tackles the question of workers' dismissals. He said that the compromise was that a committee comprising the employer, the ministry and the federation be set up to decide on dismissal questions with the decision to be considered final.

But, he noted, the version coming out from the Prime Ministry ignored this compromise and rendered the draft law unacceptable to the federation.

The federation would rather have the old law remain in force rather than accepting the new draft in its distorted form, said Mr. Khaddam.

At the meeting, Mr. Kabarti was reported to have voiced his ministry's concern over the settlement of all labour issues. The current circumstances facing Jordan at the moment requires all to work strenuously

to avoid any workers dismissals, especially in view of the problem of unemployment in Jordan, he said.

The Ministry of Labour will work hard to step the unemployment issue and problems related to the presence of non-Jordanian workers in Jordan, Mr. Kabarti said. He said that Jordan now employs 165,000 non-Jordanian workers, 21,000 of whom have acquired work permits.

In his view, the Labour Ministry should reduce the number of non-Jordanian workers as a first step towards solving the problem of unemployment in Jordan. But, the minister said, the question of finding minimum wages for workers should be postponed for the time being.

The executive council members urged the minister to move quickly towards dealing with these questions.



## Celebration of Mozart to reach climax with recital by first class pianists in Amman

By Jean-Claude Elias  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — With Mozart's year about to reach its climax on Dec. 5, Amman music lovers are treated to an unprecedented series of recitals and concerts, including not less than six important events, all to take place before Christmas.

Invited by the French Cultural Centre in Amman and the National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation, French Melisande Chauveau and German Andrew Clifford Larson, both celebrated and talented pianists will give a recital at the Royal Cultural Centre on today.

The sonata in D major KV 381 and the sonata in F major KV 497 are for the first part of the programme while sonata in B flat major KV 358 and the sonata in C major KV 521 will come in the second one. The four sonatas constitute the entire set of Mozart's piano sonatas for two performers — four hands.

Both Ms. Chauveau and Mr. Larson are first class pianists who have studied piano since a very early age with great masters of the keyboard. The even

had some master classes with the same eminent professors like Nikita Magaloff, although not at the same time. Winners of prestigious awards, they have recorded major piano works with companies like Pathe-Marconi, EMI and Arion.

On the occasion of Mozart's year, they have recorded the four abovementioned sonatas for Radio Berlin. Melisande Chauveau has a first prize from the Paris Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique, was a Fulbright fellow and attended the famous Juilliard School. Andrew C. Larson has performed in major music festivals, has given numerous solo recitals and is the president of Chopin Society in Berlin.

During all 1991, concerts all over the world used to include at least one Mozart work, but today's recital by Melisande Chauveau and Andrew C. Larson is obviously all dedicated to the great Austrian composer. Placed under the sign of the European Community, Mozart's bicentennial death commemoration has reached beyond Europe and has become a major world event.

## Symposium urges creation of regional bodies to coordinate water consumption

By Khalil Abdul Salam  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A two-day symposium on the water problem in the Middle East ended in Amman Tuesday with the participants calling for the creation of specialised Arab and regional bodies to deal with the information and studies on the water resources of the region.

The delegates to the meeting, organised by the Middle East Studies Centre, called on various participating countries to take part in the drafting of regional agreements based on international laws to safeguard each party's interests. They also urged the Arab League to work in concert with the concerned countries in this respect and to promote coordination among the countries of the region on the fair utilisation of water resources.

The delegates, from Arab countries in addition to Turkey and Iran, stressed the importance of promoting programmes to improve water utilisation systems to benefit irrigation, industry and electric power generation. They also encouraged cooperation to raise the efficiency of personnel and technicians working in the water resources fields.

The delegates also called for a pan-Arab dialogue to resolve the

water issues of the region and to ensure that agreements on water be part of the Arab Nation's security. They called on the United Nations to offer help in stemming Israel's ongoing efforts to exploit the waters of the rivers Jordan, Yarmouk and Litany, and to steal the underground and surface water of Palestine.

Several working papers presented to the symposium dealt with Israel's continued stealing of Arab water in Palestine. One of the papers said that Israel's water needs in 1995 will be nearly 1,880 million cubic metres, with a deficit of 170 million cubic metres annually. Yet, Israel did not take this into account as it pressures the absorption of hundreds of thousands of Jews from the Soviet Union who will boost Israel's population by three million by the end of the present century, the paper noted.

The paper also found that it is clear that Israel was looking towards stealing Arab water to meet its population challenge. The paper also noted that Israel's wars on the Arabs have always been motivated by its needs for more water.

The last session tackled working papers dealing with the political dimension of the region's water and its impact on the current initiative to achieve a lasting peace in the region.

## Turkish delegation to consult with Jordanian unions

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the Turkish Workers Union arrived in Amman Tuesday on a week-long visit to Jordan.

The delegation will meet with leaders of Jordanian associations for talks on enhancing cooperation between the unions of Jordan and Turkey.

The delegation will also discuss with officials at the General Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions the issue of forming a nucleus of an Islamic labour federation to bolster ties among Muslim workers all over the world and to unify their stands on issues of interest to the Islamic world.

## Parliament speakers pledge to work with government

AMMAN (J.T.) — The speakers of the Upper and Lower houses of Parliament Tuesday pledged total cooperation with the government of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, noting that they look forward to a fruitful relationship that would best safeguard the national interests.

The pledges came during separate meetings the speakers held with the prime minister, the first since Sharif Zeid took office last Thursday. According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Sharif Zeid called at Parliament House and met Senate Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, congratulating him on his appointment by the King as speaker of the house for a new term.

Sharif Zeid was quoted as saying after the meeting that the two sides have stressed the need for promoting cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities to protect national interests.

Mr. Lawzi gave a similar impression in a statement later quoted by the agency. He said that the prime minister had expressed the government's keenness to promote fruitful cooperation between the two sides.

Lower House speaker Arabiyat, who met the prime minister later, told Petra that they discussed cooperation between the executive and legislative authorities and the broad lines of Parliament work in the coming stage. The two sides have stressed their desire to understand and cooperate together in all issues of national interest, he said.

In his letter to the new prime minister upon forming the new government, His Majesty King Hussein stressed the fact that the two authorities should cooperate in accordance with the provisions of the constitution. "I stress the fact that one authority complements the other and relationship should be based on cooperation and not on discord that could bring about imbalances and disrupt the work of the two authorities," the King said.

He said the two sides ought to initiate a dialogue and work together to serve the public and safeguard national interests.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

## EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Sawa Ammarin at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Farouq Lamboz at Alla Art Gallery.
- ★ Photo exhibition entitled "The Natural Abstractions of Petra" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "The Blue Rider" at the Aqaba Youth Club Home.

## LECTURES

- ★ Lecture entitled "French Archaeological Work in Jordan Since 1975" by Jacques Selgne at the Goethe Institute — 7 p.m.

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## Evasion is no solution

THE ONE-DAY symposium on protecting port of Aqaba from environmental pollution organised by the Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution on Monday is a timely exercise to stem the growing threat to the city of Aqaba and its port. The society's president, former Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat, summed up the pressing issue when he stressed the urgent need to protect the shores and waters of Aqaba and their precious fauna and flora from the increased use of the port and the rise of industrialisation on its banks. One does not have to be an expert on environmental matters to realise that Aqaba is polluted in spite of our attempts to put a brave face on it. A representative of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation attending the meeting emphasised that vessels docking at the port, especially oil tankers, contribute substantially to the pollution of the waters of Aqaba. He estimated that such ships dump an average of five million tonnes of waste annually despite the national and international regulations against such sources of pollutants. The director of the Marine Science Station in Aqaba added his voice to those who called for urgent remedial measures to reverse the pollution problem. He referred to phosphate dust falling on Aqaba and its waters during the loading of phosphate on ships as a very serious source of pollution that also interferes with flora life in the Gulf of Aqaba as a whole. He also pointed the finger on oil tankers as major culprits.

The alarm about the menacing pollution problem in Aqaba and its environs contrasted with some official denials that the waters of Aqaba and its shores suffer from pollution. But such non-recognition of the dangers looming in the horizon would not and should not distract the attention of the government from starting to take the entire subject more seriously. After all, Aqaba is Jordan's only outlet to the sea and offers the country a unique resort in seasons that cannot be matched elsewhere.

Closing our eyes therefore to the looming threat to the city of Aqaba and its waters and shores will not remove them from existence. Better accept the fact that dangers to Aqaba do in fact exist, and the sooner the pollution phenomenon there is tackled head on, the better it is for all of us. Jordan is blessed with the necessary legislation on combating pollution everywhere and if such laws are not sufficient to cope with the unique problems of Aqaba then the government needs to introduce new laws on the subject as a matter of high priority. No doubt the Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution can lend support to the government in such an endeavour. Meanwhile the society deserves to be commended for highlighting and bringing to the attention of the country this menacing issue.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Tuesday attacked those voices which, it said, were trying to cast suspicion on Jordan's position and warned such elements against the consequences of their designs. The paper said there are elements inside and outside the country which are trying to outbid Jordan by levelling false accusations against the Kingdom. It stressed that such voices were raised because Jordan was trying to attain a lasting settlement to the Arab-Israeli dispute on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions and the international legitimacy. The paper said that Jordan has been a staunch advocate of Arab causes and has, since 1948, fought hard to protect Arab interests, therefore, it can by no means allow anyone to throw suspicion or doubt about its national stand. Jordan was involved in the 1948, 1967 and 1973 wars helping other Arab countries and defending Arab soil; during the Gulf crisis, Jordan called for reasonable solution and for settling the dispute by peaceful means, the paper said. It said that Jordan is now trying to regain the usurped Arab lands, but will not accept peace at any price and will strive hard to ensure the return of Arab rights. It will not allow hostile forces to stand in the way or to try to lecture it on nationalism. The daily said democracy in Jordan can by no means allow such voices to abuse freedom and the democratic process in the country. Democracy, added the paper, can by no means offer hostile and evil forces a protecting umbrella for their evil actions.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday said that Washington's differences with the Jewish state are real and not only a manoeuvre like what many people in the Arab World believe. Abdul Rahman Omar said that Israel is not useful for the West any more protecting Western interests in the face of a communist bloc simply because such bloc does not exist any more. Abdul Rahman Omar said that now the Eastern Bloc has collapsed, there is no fear of any movement in the Arab World against the West, especially as America has secured the allegiance of most of the Arab regimes and ensured their cooperation in any military adventure like that which took place in the Gulf. Israel is no more wanted to provide protection to the rear of the NATO alliance because the cold war is over and the fear of Soviet hegemony exists no more, the writer said. He said that America's interests are unlike those of the Jewish state which is now trying to win over the world markets from Japan and the united Europe. The United States, the writer added, can by no means allow Israel to compete with it in ensuring domination of Arab oil resources for example. He said that current U.S.-Israeli differences over the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict are real and could cause further complications in the relationship between the two sides in the future.

By Anthony Sampson

THE arms trade has always thrived on secrecy and unaccountability. Its most successful practitioners have remained in the shadows and, if they come into the limelight, like the Saudi dealer Adnan Khashoggi, it is after they have conducted their main business. Normally, the big arms deals are only revealed to the public after the weapons have been delivered and when it is too late to stop them.

The Western media, which have often been influential in other fields of investigation, have been ineffective in breaking through this secrecy to report arms sales. And since anyone interested in controlling weapons must be concerned with using the media as a means of mobilising and channelling information — and also as a political platform for making the case for control — we need to understand why the media have been so reluctant.

Arms deals provide dramatic stories which lie at the heart of contemporary world politics and can change the balances of power. The arming of Saddam Hussein by Western countries after he had clearly emerged as a potential enemy, was a historic diplomatic blunder. Why did news of these deals, which were known to thousands of people beforehand, not reach the public until after the damage had been done?

The first problem rests with the editorial structure within the media. Traditionally, any reporting about weapons has been the preserve of defence correspondents who derive most of their information and their status from their closeness to the military. They are carefully cultivated by

generals and admirals: they are flown free of charge to distant bases and trouble-spots on RAF planes. Inevitably, most of them are reluctant to offend the services which provide so many of their indispensable sources.

There is also a political problem. In Britain, the Labour Party is theoretically opposed to the arms trade, but the majority of Labour MPs are unwilling to pursue the argument in detail because arms exports help provide jobs, many of them in northern or Scottish constituencies which are Labour strongholds. The actual numbers of defence-related jobs may be small, but the arms companies have a lobbying power out of proportion to their size.

There is also the macho problem. This affects male politicians and journalists who are reluctant to depict themselves in a role which could be regarded as pacifist or wimpish. The great majority of campaigners against arms sales are women. They include the remarkable group who have organised the Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT) in London; and such formidable academic opponents as Emma Rothschild of King's College Cambridge and King Kaldor of Sussex University. But the world of defence and defence journalism remains dominated by men; editors are inclined to regard protests against the arms trade as part of 'women's subjects'.

All of these factors have limited the motivation of the media to investigate arms deals; these require unusual perseverance and resources to penetrate their secrets. The government arms dealers who are responsible for most of the business, from the offices of the Defence Exports

Services Organisation (DESO) in London's Soho Square, are protected by the Official Secrets Act and by their own sense of patriotism. Their links with the intelligence agencies fortify them further.

There have been very few 'whistleblowers' from within the arms-sales business, chiefly because of the character of the people who go into it in the first place. And without such whistleblowers, the media need far greater resources and motivation if they are to provide their own oversight of the arms trade.

Yet it has never been so important to reveal it. The end of the cold war provides a unique opportunity for agreements on disarmament; it also provides a nightmare of huge arsenals of

surplus weaponry, scattered over the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, waiting to be bought by arms dealers at knock-down prices. The Middle East appears within sight of a peace agreement; the Gulf War provided a terrifying object-lesson on the dangers of arming an enemy. But the West resumed selling weapons to every major buyer except Iraq as soon as the Gulf war was over.

The major powers are now giving some support to the proposal for a register of arms transfers to be kept by the United Nations: a proposal first promoted by Gro Brundtland in Norway, supported by Eduard Shevardnadze from the USSR and now taken up by other leaders including John Major from Bri-

tain and Toshiki Kaifu from Japan. But monitoring any official register of this kind will depend on far greater public interest and much more information from unofficial sources to provide some check on the truthfulness of governments.

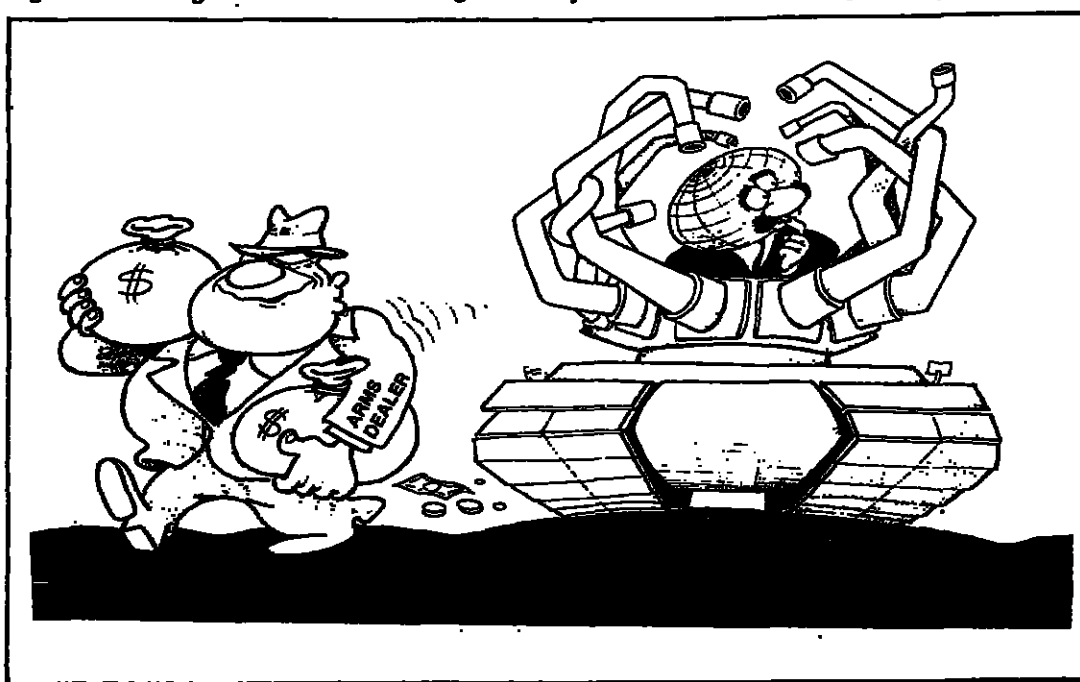
Within the Third World, the need for disclosure of arms exports is even more critical. The World Bank and richest donors, headed by Japan, have a last begun to link aid to developing countries to limiting their arms production and exports. This is an attempt to cut back the escalating arms race and arms selling, particularly in Asia and, above all, in China, which has become a major arms seller to the Middle East, including Iran and Iraq.

But any attempt to restrict

arms spending and selling calls for much more public awareness in these countries. The case of China, permanent member of the Security Council which depends critically on aid from Japan and the U.S., is particularly significant: any agreement on an arms register and subsequent arms control depends on pressuring China. Diplomats and observers have been pessimistic about internal Chinese pressure, yet there are some indications of growing concern within China, as illustrated by the recent showing of Major Barbara, Bernard Shaw's play about the arms trade.

The involvement of the media, whether in the developing or the developed world, is essential to any pressure to restrict the arms trade. For arms selling still needs secrecy to protect it: the most irresponsible acts of governments, like the U.S.-Iran arms conspiracy, or the European sales to Iraq, would never have been allowed if they had been submitted to Parliament or Congress. And the media, once motivated and equipped, can do much to increase disclosure and mobilise public opinion, as they have shown, for instance, in publishing 'Prisoners of Conscience' for Amnesty International.

The media, with their own traditional bias towards military sources and war reporting, are unlikely to mobilise themselves as effective monitors of arms sales without external pressure. Only a major change in the political scene, together with more effective institutions dedicated to arms control, are likely to make newspapers and television as interested in preventing wars as they are in reporting them. — Index on Censorship.



## Economic woes strain race relations in United States

By Bernd Debusmann  
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Hard economic times are pushing race relations from bad to worse in the United States, where white Americans and rapidly expanding minorities are competing for a shrinking economic pie.

As the recession bites into incomes and whittles away jobs, some experts say that black and Hispanic Americans at the bottom of the economic pile could become scapegoats for the frustration felt by whites who resist support programmes for minorities.

Even before more than 700,000 white Americans in Louisiana — 55 per cent — this month voted for a former Ku Klux Klan leader who blamed economic hardship on government handouts to blacks, a string of incidents else-

where pointed to rising racial friction from one end of the colour spectrum to the other.

In Washington, tension between blacks and Hispanics flared into riots on such a large scale that parts of the U.S. capital were placed under a dusk-to-dawn curfew for several days last May.

Long-standing animosity between blacks and Jews was thrown into focus in August by riots in New York triggered by a traffic accident in which a Hasidic Jew killed a seven-year-old black boy.

In a burst of rage following the incident, young blacks stabbed to death a Jewish scholar from Australia, wrecked Jewish shops and pelted the local headquarters of the Hasidic sect with stones chanting "Hitler didn't finish the job."

Other incidents that made headlines in recent months pitted

blacks against Asians, Asians against Hispanics and West Indians against blacks.

The causes of racial conflict are complex and diverse. In many cases, issues of race and class overlap.

But experts agree that the dismal state of the U.S. economy is a key factor in straining relations between the components that make up America's multi-hued society.

"Racial tension is always exacerbated by economic problems," said Harvard University sociologist Mary Walters. "There is an incredible danger that the response to economic hardship will be scapegoating."

Echoed Karen Dugger, a sociology professor at Pennsylvania's Bucknell University: "Politicians are looking for scapegoats. Internally, welfare theaters have been singled out.

Externally, it will be the Japanese."

Mr. Dugger fears that the 1990s will be a decade of racial conflict as "minorities compete for the crumbs at the bottom of the barrel and there are fewer and fewer crumbs to be had."

Dismal economic statistics tell part of the story: Almost 24 million Americans — 10 per cent of the population — now are in such dire economic straits they depend on government assistance to eat.

Roughly 16 million are unemployed or underemployed. Hourly wages now stand below the level of 1973.

In the Nov. 16 elections for Louisiana governor, former klansman and Nazi sympathiser David Duke played on economic frustration to take 55 per cent of the white vote. Mr. Duke lost because blacks overwhelmingly

voted against him.

Mr. Duke blamed what he called "the rising welfare underclass" — a phrase meaning blacks — for most of the country's problems.

The central premise of government programmes to help poor blacks has been that the white majority shares a historic guilt for past wrongs against slaves and their descendants.

But opinion polls and a series of elections show that most whites now feel there has been enough restitution for 200 years of slavery and another century of legal discrimination.

Hiring guidelines that allot a set number of jobs for minorities, considered reverse discrimination by many, have run into fierce opposition.

In San Francisco, for example, a programme to promote black and Hispanic firefighters prompted a veteran fireman, eligible for promotion as a Hispanic but not as a white, to declare himself Hispanic after 16 years of being classified as white. He had an Italian father and a Spanish mother.

Critics of President George Bush and his predecessor, Ronald Reagan, have accused them of having played to racial stereotypes with tactics that resembled those used by Mr. Duke.

They boil down to equating crime, drugs and abuse of the welfare system with blacks in the grim ghettos of major U.S. cities, where conditions have deteriorated steadily over the past two decades and now resemble those of Third World slums.

## Bahrain's Jews — few but prosperous

By Mariam Isa  
Reuters

MANAMA — Arabs in traditional robes, turbaned Sikhs from India and casually dressed European tourists regularly crowd into the office of the only Jewish moneychanger in the Gulf.

Sitting at his desk in a corner behind Asian cashiers, Ezra Nonoo, managing director of Bahrain Finance Company, peers through thick spectacles at Bahrainis who have stopped by for cups of Arab tea and an animated chat.

"It's a bit like a Kuwaiti diwaniya in here," he explains, referring to the traditional open house where people in the northern Gulf emirate gather to gossip about local issues.

Like others in Bahrain's small but prosperous Jewish community, Mr. Nonoo, 59, says he does not feel discriminated against. He has chosen to remain a citizen of an Arab state where he runs a lucrative family business and is a respected member of Bahrain's closely knit population of 400,000.

"Here people come up to you in the street and say good morning ... if you go somewhere else knows you?" Mr. Nonoo said. "We are Jews but we are also Arabs. I don't see any disadvantages in being a Jew in Bahrain."

Most Middle Eastern Jews emigrated after the creation of Israel in 1948 but small Jewish communities are still scattered throughout the Arab World.

Bahrain, widely regarded as the most socially tolerant Gulf Arab state, is the only Arabian peninsula country besides Yemen which has Jewish nationals.

Unlike neighbouring Saudi

Arabia — the birthplace of Islam — the island hosts several churches as well as Sikh and Hindu temples where foreigners can practice their religion.

Bahraini Jews, who emigrated from Iran more than a century ago, say their synagogue burned down shortly after Palestine was partitioned — a period of unrest throughout the Arab World.

But members of the tiny community, which has shrunk to about 40 from 500 in 1948, say they are not very religious. High holidays like Yom Kippur are celebrated at home.

"I studied in London for seven years and during that time I visited the synagogue two or three times," said Rouben Roubens, whose family owns one of Bahrain's biggest electronics outlets.

"I don't feel that I am out of place. I grew up here. I was born here. I have never been given the opportunity to feel otherwise," said 37-year-old Roubens.

Meir Nonoo, Ezra's 50-year-old brother, admitted that he sometimes encountered resentment because of his background.

But he added: "We are all well off. If there were real problems, or discrimination, we would leave — it would be no problem to pack up and go. It's our choice to stay."

Ezra, who frequently travels to neighbouring Gulf states on business, said he had once met an Abu Dhabi immigration official who asked him incredulously if he was Jewish.

"I replied, yes, what do you mean? He took me through customs and out of the airport, apologising and saying he just wanted to know if there were Jews in Bahrain," Ezra said.

Bahrain Finance Company is

the biggest retail foreign exchange firm on the island and has business relationships in neighbouring Gulf states.

Because of the limited size of their community, most Bahraini Jews look for spouses when they travel or study overseas. Families with young women have emigrated while young men simply bring their Jewish wives home.

"I'm not worried about finding a wife, it's not on my mind right now," said Saleh Yadgar, 31. Yadgar spent 17 years in New York with relatives but returned to Bahrain in 1985 to help his father run a perfume shop in the island's bustling souk (Market).

"It took about six months to adjust to the slow pace of life but now when I visit New York I'm happy to leave — you can walk anywhere here without being afraid," he said.

Other Jewish families seem to share this philosophy.

"I didn't really want to live in America after ten years — I don't want my daughter to go to a school where she would turn to using drugs or come home with swear words," Meir said.

"I came back because it was the atmosphere I was brought up in. We try to say we are Westernised but our ways are still eastern," Mr. Roubens said.

None of the Jews interviewed said they wanted to go to Israel — at least not until it made peace with Arab states.

"We don't feel it's right to visit Israel while there is tension with Arab countries — we don't necessarily believe that we should live there or that Israel should not observe the rights of Palestinians," said Mr. Meir.

"This is just speaking as a human being, it has nothing to do with politics."

## Nuclear proliferation may be slowing, experts say

By Charles Aldinger  
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The proliferation of nuclear arms may be slowing worldwide despite recent reports that Iran and North Korea are pushing to develop such weapons, according to defence experts.

The private analysts cite steps in the past year by potential nuclear powers South Africa, Brazil and Argentina to join the non-proliferation movement and growing U.N. willingness to crack down on nations bent on getting the bomb.

"Despite publicity involving Iran, Iraq and North Korea, the race to become nuclear has slowed. The world has been more successful than one would guess in pushing non-proliferation," said Jack Mendelsohn of the U.S. Arms Control Association.

"There is an international stigma about attaching to nuclear arms. Most nations realise that getting the bomb would alienate the world from them," Mr. Mendelsohn said.

The United States, the Soviet Union, China, Britain and France are known to have nuclear weapons. Israel is widely reported to have such arms. India has tested a device and Pakistan is believed to have the components and ability to build a weapon.

But South Africa recently signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and agreed to international inspections. Last November, Brazil and Argentina promised to limit their nuclear development to peaceful purposes and to submit to inspections by each other.

"It was known that South Africa could have become a member of the (nuclear) club at will and that both Argentina and Brazil had advanced technology," said John Pike of the Federation of American Scientists.

"There appears to be some brightening on the horizon," said former U.S. Defence Secretary Harold Brown while warning that any success by North Korea to build a nuclear weapon could immediately threaten a catastrophic war in Southeast Asia.

Mr. Brown said he was heartened by U.N. Security Council willingness to use threats in forcing Iraq to undergo international arms inspections after Baghdad's defeat by a U.S.-led international coalition in the Gulf war.

"I would not be surprised to see an eventual move in the United Nations to discuss using force against North Korea's nuclear programme unless it allows international inspections," Mr. Brown told Reuters.

Harvard Professor Joseph Nye, an expert on Third World proliferation of missile technology, said he was encouraged by South Africa, Brazil and Argentina, and noted that virtually all Latin American nations but Cuba have signed the treaty of Tlatelolco, which declares the region a nuclear free zone.

"The nuclear glass is either half empty or half full, depending on how you look at it," he said. "If North Korea gets nuclear weapons, it will make the situation extremely troubled for South Korea and Japan."

Iran has denied statements by U.S. officials that it was trying to develop nuclear weapons, perhaps with technical help from China. China also denied the

allegations. Defence Department spokesman Pete Williams told reporters that U.S. intelligence believed that Iran was still years away from developing a nuclear weapon.

Analysts agreed that the end of the cold war might be making it easier for the United States and other countries to pressure nations to abandon nuclear programmes.

"It is harder now for countries to play Moscow and Washington off against one another," said Mr. Nye.

He noted that Washington cut off foreign aid to Pakistan in 1989 after President George Bush refused to certify to Congress that Pakistan did not have a nuclear weapon.

"Before that, the United States might have been very reluctant to take such action against a friend on the Soviet's southern flank," he said.

Non-proliferation advocates caution that if the nuclear genie is to be kept effectively at bay, nations must crack down on their own high-tech industries to make sure that potentially dangerous technologies are not exported on purpose or accidentally.

"Germany has tightened export controls after being embarrassed over use of German technology in the Libyan chemical weapons plant at Rabta," said Jon Wolfthal of the Arms Control Association.

He and others said strict penalties would help dissuade those willing to turn their heads and make a fast dollar in a world where the push of a button could take tens of thousands of lives.



# Yugoslav war embarrasses EC ahead of European union summit

By Patrick Worsnip  
Reuters

LONDON — Unable to stop Europe's worst conflict since World War II, the European Community has been gravely embarrassed by the carnage in Yugoslavia as it prepares to take on a common foreign policy and defence role.

Lord Carrington, chairman of an EC peace conference on Yugoslavia, confessed on Monday to "frustration and irritation" over the warring factions' failure to respect a string of ceasefires arranged so far.

"Everybody always says they're going to do something and then in the end they don't do it," the former British foreign secretary said in a radio interview.

Following the collapse of 13 EC ceasefires, the United Nations through its envoy Cyrus Vance brokered a 14th over the weekend but scattered fighting was reported on Monday.

Despite much talk of international peacekeeping forces, neither the EC nor the U.N. has been ready to wade into Yugoslavia and separate the fighting Serbs and Croats by force. They insist the Yugoslavs must stop shooting before outside forces go in.

"We can't keep the peace unless there's a peace to keep," is the refrain of most Western officials.

The refusal of the combatants

to be bound by ceasefire, the destruction of the Croatian city of Vukovar by Yugoslavia's Serb-dominated federal army and its march towards Osijek, and reports of atrocities have left EC diplomats in a defensive mood.

"It's made us look ineffective in solving the crisis, but I'm not sure anyone could have solved it," one said. "No one's come up with a plausible alternative to our policy. It makes people realise the limitations of European power."

The EC peace conference, aimed at an amicable carve-up of Yugoslavia, has been backed

## NEWS ANALYSIS

more recently by community economic sanctions to try to stop the fighting, but nothing has so far had any effect.

If the latest ceasefire works, the U.N. could send in a peace force, a move which France urged on Monday that the Security Council should in any case make as soon as possible.

If it fails, the community would like the council to impose an oil embargo, described by Lord Carrington as "the one thing I think that would hurt the Yugoslav army." But non-aligned members are reluctant to set such a precedent.

The civil war, massacres of civilians and streams of refugees have come at the worst possible time

for the community.

This was supposed to be the time for the EC to emerge as the heart of the new Europe, following the collapse of communism in the eastern half of the continent over the past two years.

Instead, Western governments have been flooded with protests, especially from the Croats and the powerful Croatian emigre lobby, that Europe has failed to stand up against what Zagreb says is a communist-dominated Serbia and federal army.

Croats from across Europe plan to demonstrate for Croatian independence in the Dutch town of Maastricht, where an EC summit on December 9-10 is due to agree a new treaty on European union, including a common foreign and security policy.

Opinion in the EC is split between those who think a common policy, if adopted earlier, could have helped avert the Yugoslav crisis and those who say the crisis only goes to show how difficult it would be to apply such a policy.

Germany, backed by Italy and from outside the EC by Austria, has favoured giving diplomatic recognition to Croatia and Slovenia, whose independence declarations on June 25 sparked the crisis. Britain and some other states are dragging their heels.

Britain has argued that to recognise Croatia would imply the duty to give it military aid against attack by Serbia, much as West-

ern states came to the rescue of Kuwait after it was invaded by Iraq in August, 1990.

But most Western states feel that the rights and wrongs of the Serbo-Croat dispute are much less clear-cut than in Kuwait — and there are no vital Western oil interests there to defend.

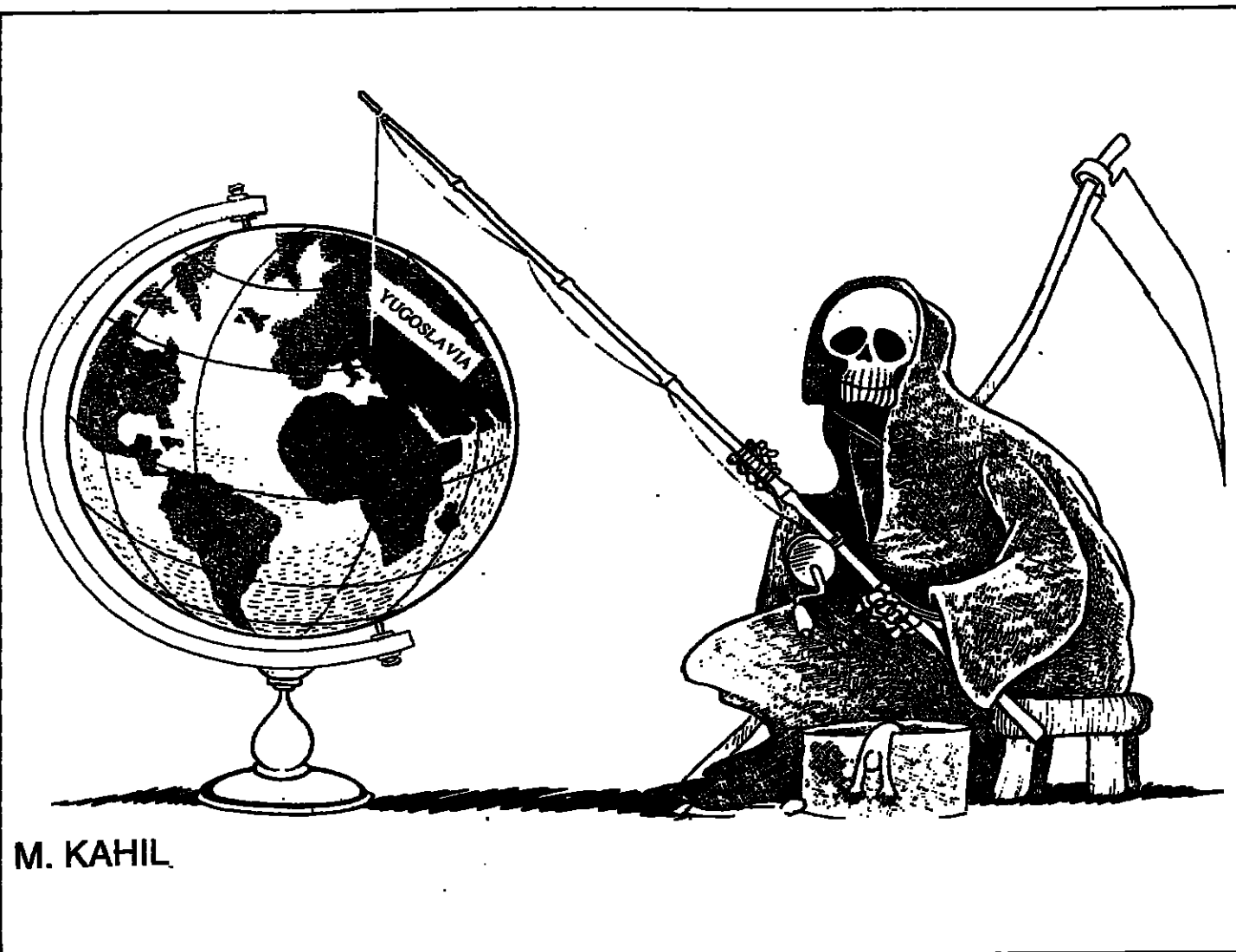
Few West European countries want to fight for Croatia, even if the Maastricht summit creates a new European "defence identity" based on the nine-nation Western European union.

But diplomats say the terms of the argument have now changed slightly, with Germany and its allies telling Croatia recognition would not mean military aid. The shift could undermine British opposition to the move.

Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Den Broek told the Yugoslavs last month on behalf of the EC that recognition could not come if peace was not achieved in two months. Germany says that deadline falls due on December 10, second day of the Maastricht summit.

Diplomats say political pressures could swing the EC towards recognition if the Yugoslav army presses ahead to visit Vukovar on Osijek and other Croatian towns.

Such a move, implying the Yugoslav conflict was between different countries and not an internal affair, would then place the Yugoslav ball even more firmly in the United Nations court.



## Workings of political forces

(Continued from page 1)

American-led Western alliance against Iraq during the Gulf war were crucial factors that dampened opposition to the peace process," said an analyst.

But there was fear among the leftist and rightist opposition at the outset of the peace process that democracy will be the first casualty of Jordan's participation in the peace talks if the government was pressured by the U.S. to accept all the preconditions regardless of public opinion at home.

In fact, some measures taken by the Masri government, including the confiscation of one edition of Al Rahat, the Ikhwan weekly, and the censorship of Al Ahsa, a leftist publication, on the eve of the Madrid peace conference had initially rein-

forced such suspicions. In addition, parliamentarians opposed to the talks saw the extension of parliament's summer recess as a step to prevent the Lower House from serving as a sounding board prior to entering negotiations.

There are some analysts, especially in the opposition ranks, who still voice such fears. But others maintain that democracy — or at least political openness — will boost Jordan's negotiating position and the needed national unity. Such conviction was indicated in King Hussein's letter designation of Sheriff Zeid Ben Shaker, according to these analysts.

There is almost a consensus among the various political trends that Jordan's internal situation would have been more difficult on the eve of the conference had it not been for the level of political freedoms that have

been allowed, especially that deep suspicion remains about the U.S. position and Israeli intentions.

But in the last weeks of Mr. Masri's government there was a growing fear and resentment that the opponents of the peace conference were not being allowed to express their opposition freely.

Some of the fears were assuaged, however, by Mr. Masri's assertion, in press interviews and in his meetings with political leaders, that he did not condone the disruption of anti-peace rallies and by the gradual, albeit limited, access that was being given to some opposition figures to the mass media.

Analysts as well as some officials argue that the sensitivity of the peace process has introduced a situation that alarmed the security and warranted some curbs. Others counter that the fears of an internal eruption over the peace process were exaggerated and that the opposition,

particularly the Ikhwan, proved that they were not ready to disrupt the country's stability.

In the final analysis, political observers, including some officials, including some of those who served in the Masri government, agree that public scepticism and opposition by certain groups to the peace talks had reintroduced some curbs on political freedoms. These curbs were used by Mr. Masri's opponents rightly or wrongly to further undermine him. Even JANDA, whose officials insist that they believe that Mr. Masri is a committed democrat, cited some of these curbs as a reason for not taking part in the cabinet.

The issue of maintaining political freedoms and Jordan's commitment to participation in peace process will remain a challenge to any Jordanian government, particularly if people see no progress in the ground or any serious Arab and Palestinian concession, some analysts maintain.

With this growth, I want to give up the American aid."

State Department officials were not immediately available to comment on Mr. Masri's proposal.

The request for the loan guarantees, originally formulated by Mr. Modai during the Gulf war, is expected to be the subject of a contentious debate in Congress early next year.

Mr. Modai's plan would provide for the end to 30 years of U.S. economic aid to the Jewish state, including at least \$1.2 billion in each of the last seven years.

However, it would not affect U.S. military aid, which has been about \$1.8 billion annually in recent years, the report said.

Mr. Modai suggested the United States adopt a three-year timetable for phasing out economic aid at the end of the decade while agreeing to grant the loan guarantees.

Mr. Modai said Israel would be able to give up U.S. economic aid because the one million Soviet immigrants, if successfully absorbed, would touch off an explosion of economic growth. "The gross national product, according to our plan is going to grow eight per cent every year from now on," he was quoted as saying. "Exports should grow 12 per cent every

## Libya

(Continued from page 1)

don to New York, and 11 people on the ground in the Scottish town of Lockerbie were killed when it exploded.

Britain and the United States have warned of serious consequences if the two men, cited in indictments as Libyan intelligence agents, are not handed over.

They have not ruled out military action. U.S. planes bombed Libya in 1986 after Washington accused Libya of involvement in bombing a Berlin discotheque frequented by American troops.

Mr. Dourda said a U.S. indictment sheet — copies of which were handed to Libya, the Arab League and several regional states — "does not contain any evidence against Libya."

He met Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid on Monday, who said he would "carry out contacts to ease the tension between Libya and the United States."

## U.S.

(Continued from page 1)

would you be prepared to concede in return?" said one source, who asked not to be identified.

"It said to the Syrians: 'Let us suppose that Israel is willing to offer territory. What kind of peace would you be prepared to offer?'"

The U.S. proposal on the Golan Heights is potentially explosive because it shows that Washington believes Israel must withdraw from at least part of the strategic plateau it seized from Syria in the 1967 war. Israel virtually annexed the territory in 1981 and its parliament reiterated that it would not negotiate its status earlier this month.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir left the United States Saturday furious that Washington had issued invitations to the talks a few hours before he met President George Bush.

Sources familiar with the Bush-Shamir meeting and the Israeli leader's earlier discussion with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker last week said they were bad-tempered encounters which left both sides irri-

tated. On the occupied West Bank, the United States urged Israel and the Palestinians to concentrate on a concrete vision of Palestinian self-rule. Washington also suggested that Jordan and Israel discuss minor adjustments to their border in the Jordan Valley south of the Dead Sea as a way of building mutual confidence.

Palestinian negotiators were Monday preparing to go to Washington for talks with Israel next week. "We are preparing for everything, including travelling to Washington... we know the Americans, and we believe the United States would not allow any delay in the talks," said Ghassan Al Khatib, a member of the Palestinian team, before Tuesday's U.S. announcement.

## Modai suggests loan plan

The United States should gradually end economic aid to Israel as part of a deal to grant \$10 billion in loan guarantees to pay for absorption of Soviet immigrants, Israel's finance minister proposed in remarks published Tuesday.

The suggestion, raised by Finance

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# Al Wihdat heads premier league

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AN — Al Wihdat ended the second round of the premier soccer championship at the end of the 15th week of the season with a most convincing 4-1 win over Al Qadissieh to secure the 1991 championship title.

Naser Al Horani scored an early second minute goal followed by another by Jihad Abdul Mun'em in the eighth minute to give Al Wihdat an early 2-0 lead. Al Wihdat, playing without their captain Yousef Al Amouri who was injured during training, played with superior attacking ability and teamwork as Ibrahim Sadiyeh scored the third goal in the 22nd minute. Al Qadissieh's Hazen Rashid scored his team's only goal to end the first half at 3-1 for Al Wihdat.

Abdul Mun'em scored his second and Wihdat's fourth goal amid cheers from jubilant Wihdat fans since they just needed to draw with Al Qadissieh to secure the title which they had won in 1980 and 1987.

In another match titleholders Al Faisali beat Al Ramtha 2-0. Jamal Abu Abed scored Al Faisali's first goal in the sixth minute as Al Ramtha missed a key player,

Rateb Al Daoud and later played without Khaled Al Aqouri who got a red card in the 36th minute. Jiryes Tadros scored a header in the 77th minute to end the match at 2-0 thus eliminating Al Ramtha's chances of chasing the title.

In a match that saw an unusual big number of goals Al Ahli humiliated Al Hussein with a win of 7-2. Waleed Fatafeh of Al Ahli scored in the 10th and 33rd minutes to give Al Ahli a 2-0 lead but a defensive error from teammate Maher Hantash gave Al

Hussein their first goal in the 35th minute to end the first half at 2-1. Abdallah Al Shiba' of Al Hussein scored his team's second goal but Al Ahli attacked repeatedly as Mousa Shtian scored Al Ahli's third goal in the 63rd minute only to be followed by a four goal bombardment in the last ten minutes (two by Waleed Fatafeh and two by Nart Yada) to finish the match with the impressive result.

In the fourth match of the week Al Jeel scored their first win when they beat Al Jazireh 3-2

thus eliminating the latter's hope of staying in the premier league. The two teams will now fall to the second division.

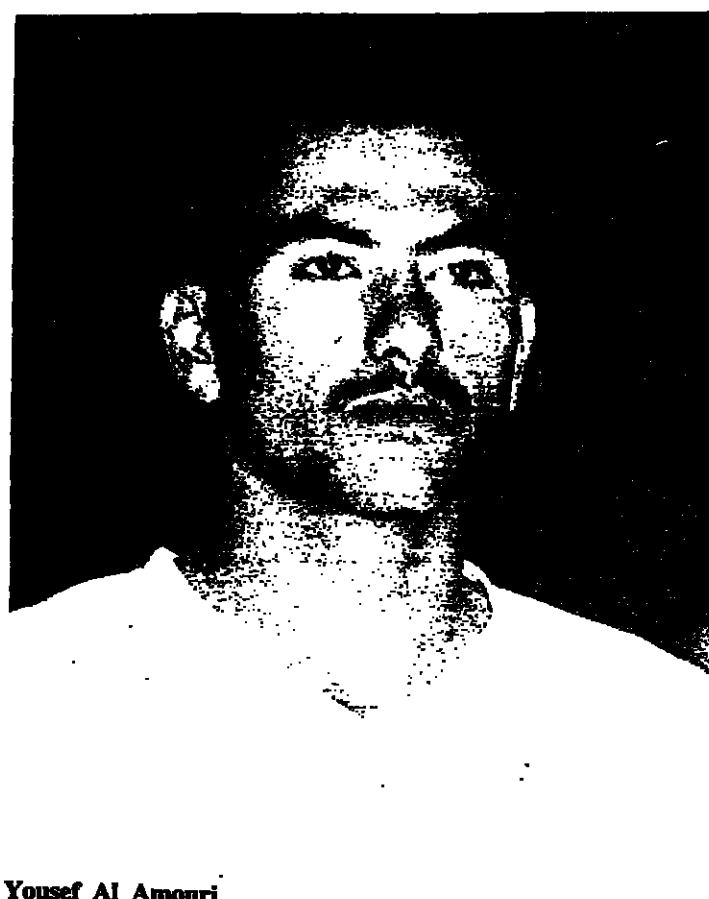
Al Jazireh lost many scoring chances but managed to score the first goal of the match to end the first half at 1-0.

Al Jeel quickly reacted in the second half as Mahmoud Masarweh scored two successive goals in the 58th and 60th minutes. His relentless attacks bore fruit again as he continued to score the third goal in the 71st minute.

Al Jazireh tried their best to catch up but their second goal by Hazem Abu Ja'far in the 88th minute came too late as Al Jeel won the match 3-2.

In the fifth match of the week played at Al Hassan Sports City Stadium in Irbid, Al Karmel scored a precious 2-1 win over Al Arabi. This win kept alive Al Karmel's hopes of staying in the premier league.

Hisham Anbar of Al Arabi scored the first goal of the match in the fifth minute. However, Al Karmel's repeated attacks succeeded in equalising with a goal from Jaser Al Buqei'i in the 29th minute. Al Arabi did not give up and tried to score a second goal



Yousef Al Amouri

but missed many chances unlike Al Karmel who managed to win

by a last minute goal from Naser Abu Hadeed.

## JORDAN SOCCER STANDINGS

After 15th week

	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Al Wihdat	14	1	0	30	3	29
Al Faisali	10	1	4	25	12	21
Al Ahli	8	4	3	25	14	20
Al Ramtha	9	4	4	30	13	19
Al Hussein	5	4	5	22	19	14
Al Qadissieh	6	2	7	16	22	14
Al Arabi	4	5	6	22	19	13
Al Karmel	4	1	10	15	35	9
Al Jazireh	2	2	11	12	22	6
Al Jeel	1	1	13	5	43	3

Note: The Al Ramtha-Al Hussein match has been postponed.

## SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

### Queen Noor distributes trophies

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday distributed trophies and medals to winners in Al Hussein Men's Singles tennis tournament which concluded at Al Hussein Youth City Monday. Youth Minister Saleh Irsheidat presented the Sports City's Cup to Queen Noor to present it to His Majesty King Hussein as a gift on the occasion of his birthday. Also the Sports City's Tennis Committee presented the committee's cup to Queen Noor in appreciation of her efforts in supporting the sports movement in the Kingdom.

### Jordan to hold water-skiing festival

AMMAN (J.T.) — On the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, the Royal Jordanian Marine Sports Federation will organise a water-skiing festival at the Aquamarina Hotel in Aqaba on Thursday Nov. 28. A total of 11 countries will participate in the five-day festival which will be held under the patronage of King Hussein. The events will include tricks and jump competition and slalom.

### Mancini returns to Sampdoria lineup

GENOA, Italy (R) — Sampdoria striker Roberto Mancini, who led Sunday's defeat at Roma because of a thigh strain, returns to partner Gianluca Vialli for the Italian champions' European Cup semifinal group match against holders Red Star of Belgrade Wednesday. Sampdoria's sixth league defeat in 11 matches at the weekend left them a point above the relegation zone and a home win in the Yugoslavs in the first match of the European Cup semifinal group would finally wreck their season. But coach Vujadin Boskov is refusing to panic as he attempts to lift morale ahead of what the Italian media consider Sampdoria's most important game of the season.

### Shert hit by injuries before UEFA tie

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgian club Ghent, hit by injuries to four key players, have trouble assembling a full squad of 16 for their UEFA Cup third round match against Soviet side Dynamo Moscow Wednesday. Defender Bart de Roover, midfielders Laurent Dauwe and Frederic Waseige and striker Davy Cooreman are all injured, a club spokeswoman said Tuesday. Striker Marc Van Der Linden, midfielder Rudy Janssens and defender Michel de Groote were all slightly injured during their 1-0 win over Antwerp in a Belgian League match Saturday, but are expected to be fit. Ghent knocked out Bundesliga leaders Eintracht Frankfurt in the second round.

### Egypt set sights on next World Cup

CAIRO (R) — Manager Mahmoud Al Gohari, who last year led Egypt in their first appearance in the World Cup soccer finals since 1934, has outlined his plans for their next campaign. Gohari sacked in October 1990 after a 6-1 defeat by Greece in a friendly, was reinstated last September to take over from his original replacement, German coach Dietrich Weise. Weise was dismissed when Egypt's Olympic team failed to pass beyond the first qualifying round. Gohari told a news conference he planned home matches against three East European teams before taking Egypt to the African Nations Championship in Senegal next January. They will play Romania twice, Czechoslovakia once and Poland twice.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF  
& TAMNAH HIRSCH  
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### WORTH ONE'S WEIGHT IN GOLD

North-South vulnerable. West deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ 7 6 3  
♥ 4 3  
♦ A K Q 4 2  
♣ 8 5 4

**EAST**  
♠ K Q 10  
♥ A 8 4 2  
♦ K 10 6  
♣ J 9 7 5

**SOUTH**  
♠ J 9 5  
♥ A Q J 9 7  
♦ 3  
♣ K Q 6 3

The bidding: West 1♠, North 1♥, South 2♥, West 3♥, North 4♥, South 4♥.

Opening lead: King of ♠.

Had Diogenes been a bridge player, he would have walked around with his lantern searching for an expert defender—a player who makes life as easy as possible for partner. A player such as the one who held the West cards on this hand from rubber bridge.

West's opening bid was as light as the law will allow, especially since the flat distribution was a drawback. Therefore, West remained silent on the second round of bidding despite excellent support for ♠'s suit, and

South bought the contract at two hearts. West led the king and queen of spades, on which East signalled enthusiastically. A thoughtless defender would now continue with a third round of spades. East's ace winning. That would have left East in a quandary as to whether to continue with the 13th spade or to switch to a club. Since West had opened the bidding in that suit, we know our choice would have been to shift to the jack of clubs, and that would have presented declarer with the contract. In all, declarer would have been able to limit North-South's losses to three spade tricks, a heart and a club.

What would you have done at trick three? If you cashed the ace of clubs before leading your remaining spade, you would rank at the top of our list of considerate partners. When East now gains the lead with the ace of spades there should be no temptation to revert to a club, and a diamond return would obviously do the defenders no good.

East might as well continue with the last spade and, whether declarer ruffs high or low, a second trump trick for the defense is established. That's just enough to inflict a one-trick set on declarer.

## Auriol snatches RAC Rally lead from Sainz

KESWICK, England (R) — Hard-charging Frenchman Didier Auriol slotted his works Lancia into first place in the RAC Rally Tuesday.

Auriol, who had threatened to take charge of the closing round of the World Championship with some brilliant driving in the forest of Wales Monday, finally burst ahead of Spanish pacesetter Carlos Sainz during the morning's tests in the English Lake district.

Sainz occupied second place in his Toyota Celica, 27 seconds behind Auriol but more importantly continued to keep world title challenger Juha Kankkunen at bay.

Kankkunen, in a Lancia Delta Integrale, was a menacing third, only 20 seconds behind Sainz and needs to overhaul him by Wednesday's finish in order to snatch the crown.

A top-five place for Sainz with Kankkunen behind him would be enough for the Spaniard to remain champion.

Britain's Colin McRae rolled his Subaru out to fourth place but continued in 16th position. Despite considerable damage he was second-fastest on the following stage.

The Wythop stage was delayed after a major roll involving the Subaru of fifth-placed Finn Markku Alen. Alen dropped five minutes but carried on.

## Noah keeps everyone guessing about Davis Cup final team

PARIS (R) — French Captain Yannick Noah is keeping all but his team guessing by refusing to reveal who he has chosen to face the United States in the Davis Cup final starting Friday in Lyon.

Noah told his four-man squad of Guy Forget, Henri Leconte, Olivier Delaitre and Arnaud Boetsch at the weekend of his selection for the two singles places and the doubles pairing against the Americans.

But he has barred the players from talking to the media and has added to the mystery by hinting he could even play in the final himself as a late replacement for one of the others.

"I would not be training four or five hours a day if I had no intention of playing," he told reporters. "Leconte is playing well but then so am I."

There is no doubt that Forget, the world number seven, will be the first singles player and the anchor man of the doubles team but after that all options are open.

Title holders the United States, whose Captain Tom Gorman is

making no such secret of his line-up, will be using Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras in the singles, giving Noah the problem of producing a conjuring trick to find a second player able to give either a serious contest.

Noah's lips may be sealed but the betting is heavily on Leconte, his old comrade-in-arms from France's last Davis Cup final appearance when the French were defeated 4-1 by the Americans in Grenoble nine years ago.

The swashbuckling but unpredictable Leconte has talent and experience on his side. He is capable of beating anyone on his day — and equally of losing to anybody.

More importantly he has played 38 singles rubbers for France in the Davis Cup, has beaten Agassi twice in four meetings and now seems fully fit again after a third back operation during the summer.

The young Delaitre is the other main contender for the slot. He reached the final of last month's Lyon tournament at the Palais des Sports where the Davis Cup

showdown takes place before losing badly to Sampras.

But he has no Davis Cup experience and Noah would be taking a huge gamble if he threw him in at the deep end.

France's best chance of an upset rest on Forget winning both his singles matches — he beat Sampras earlier this month in the Paris Open final — and winning a third point from the doubles where the Americans field those old campaigners Ken Flach and Robert Seguso.

Leconte, an accomplished doubles player, is once again the best bet but Noah may feel three five-setters, in three days could be beyond him and field Boetsch instead.

Or maybe he will turn to Noah the player and name himself. Under Davis Cup rules he does not have to finalise his squad until Thursday and can still change his doubles team up to one hour before Saturday's rubber.

The only certainty is that Noah will keep his opponents in the dark until just before Thursday's draw.

## Wright returns to Liverpool line up

LONDON (R) — Liverpool manager Graeme Souness is throwing defender Mark Wright into Wednesday's UEFA Cup tie with Swarovski Tirol hoping he will begin to repay some of his £2.2 million (\$3.9 million) transfer.

The England defender who has been out for 13 weeks since snap-

ping his Achilles tendon returns for the third round first leg tie in Austria after just two reserves team games.

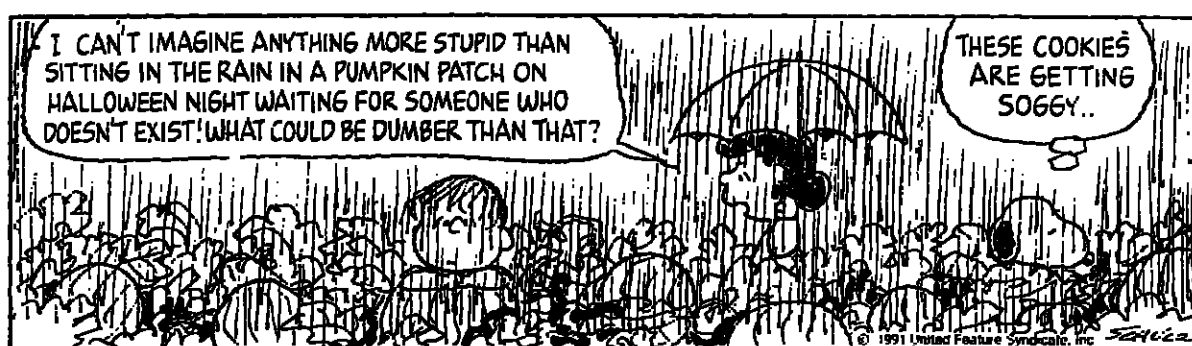
"He, more than anyone, is aware of the fact that we have paid a lot of money for him and so far Liverpool Football Club have had nothing back. He is

desperately keen to play," Souness said Tuesday.

Wright said: "I'm back now and I want to start proving a point. To get injured in only my second game was a big blow."

Barry Venison, another Achilles victim, is also included in Liverpool's squad despite being out for 10 months.

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 27, 1991  
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Getting to the point and going after exactly what you want with fine incite a prophetic understanding are the best means to show others that you are ready to move directly ahead.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You now find it is exceedingly important that you do let those about see and realize that you handle your vocational activities in a conscientious manner.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Many new ideas come to you and they may be good for changing present ways of doing things or making some new assault upon new activities.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You are now able to find the many means by which to let those about see and realize that you are aware of what is expected of you and carry through without delay.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Whatever interests you the most in partnership matters should be carefully studied and thought-out by you without activity just yet.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) You now find that years is the duty to do those tasks which have become difficult and which you would rather toss into the ashcan of the discarded.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You want to have a good time but if you enjoy the things you do all alone without depending on

someone else you can replace to-days tension with helpful results to you.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Now you have all kinds of problems to meet at your home or with your own family so take the bull by the horns and talk them out peacefully.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Think over those who can help you in your daily enterprises and make a point to show that you do value the good will of them by doing them some quiet favour.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Now you need to really think out your budget and what you can do to have property as you wish and get a new slant on economies you can make.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) How you are going to personally handle a pressing immediate matter which is facing you shows how far you have advanced in your desire for a well rounded understanding.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Whatever you have in mind with friends now that means joining forces with them in some interesting project; you can now proceed with full speed.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Whatever you have in mind with friends now that means joining forces with them in some interesting project; you can now proceed with full speed.

## THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



I stuffed it with pizza. It sure beats chunks of stale bread!"

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME  
by Henry Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GYTAN

YIZZD

LESTUS

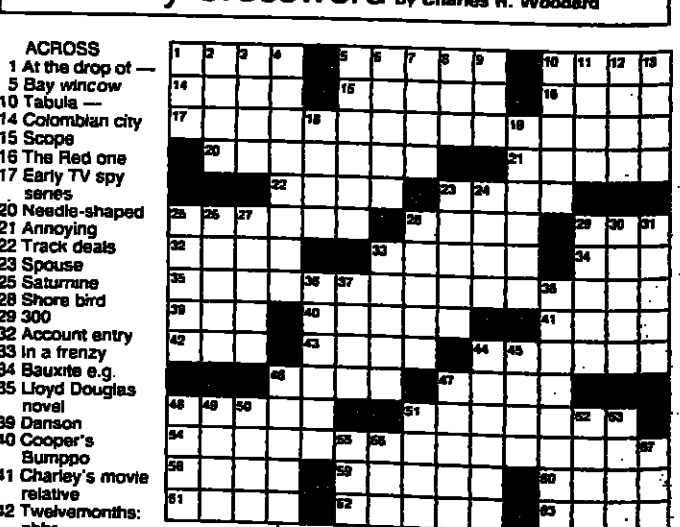
YONIFT

Answer: IN SEVERAL

Yesterday's Jumbles: FLORA HIKER UNLOCK WALRUS.

Answer: He put more hours in his work than this—WORK IN HIS HOURS

## THE Daily Crossword by Charles R. Woodard



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS  
1 At the drop of —  
5 Bay window  
10 Tabula —  
14 Colombian city  
15 Scope  
16 The Red one  
17 Early TV spy series  
20 Needle-shaped  
21 Annoying  
22 Track deals  
23 Spouse  
25 Saturne  
28 Shore bird  
29 300  
32 Account entry  
33 in a frenzy  
34 Bauxite e.g.  
35 Lloyd Douglas novel  
39 Darsion  
40 Cooper's  
41 Bumpo  
42 Charley's movie relative  
43 Twelve-months: abbr.  
44 Tiny plants  
45 Perry Mason  
47 Wood strip  
48 Master to  
Gunga Din  
51 Do museum work  
54 Deft film  
58 Knowledge  
59 "Thelma" — do  
60 Young Marybar resident  
61 — and terminer  
62 — of robins...  
63 Some votes

DOWN  
1 Deed  
2 Sound of  
3 laughter  
4 Guinness  
5 Ticking threat  
6 Baroque  
7 Concerning  
8 Freudian term  
9 Moon vehicle  
10 Silent Adoree  
11 Bows  
12 Gown  
13 —deury  
14 God of war  
15 Comprehension  
23 Timid  
24 Span  
25 "The Secret Life of Water"  
26 Different  
27 Hollow stems  
28 Biblical verb  
29 Deity of revelry  
30 Wandering bird  
31 Loose change  
33 Miller's " — the Fall  
36 Horror film  
37 Actress  
38 Kurosawa film  
44 Good luck animal  
45 Bismarck  
48 Ex-boy  
49 Boxing jabs  
48 Fr. town  
49 Newell hall  
50 Present  
51 Memory  
52 " — Man" (novel)  
53 Max Adams  
55 Cagers' gp.  
56 Pilearm  
57 Affirmative



# Financial Markets

Jordan Times  
in co-operation with  
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE Date: 25/11/91	TOKYO CLOSE Date: 26/11/91
Sterling Pound	1.7935	1.7978
Deutsche Mark	1.5885	1.5844
Swiss Franc	1.4124	1.4099
French Franc	5.4290	5.4218**
Japanese Yen	127.92	128.30
European Currency Unit	1.2790	1.2815**

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Inter-currency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.66	4.87	4.81	4.95
Sterling Pound	10.43	11.50	10.50	10.50
Deutsche Mark	9.00	9.37	9.37	9.37
Swiss Franc	7.75	8.00	7.87	7.87
French Franc	9.81	9.75	9.68	9.56
Japanese Yen	6.78	6.12	5.87	5.68
European Currency Unit	10.00	10.12	10.12	10.12

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	367.20	7.00	Silver	4.10	0.069

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6780	0.6800
Sterling Pound	1.2166	1.2227
Deutsche Mark	0.4270	0.4291
Swiss Franc	0.4799	0.4823
French Franc	0.1249	0.1255
Japanese Yen	0.5282	0.5306
Dutch Guilder	0.3787	0.3806
Swedish Krona	0.1165	0.1177
Italian Lira	0.0564	0.0567
Belgian Franc	0.02069	0.02079

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7690	1.7770
Lebanese Lira	0.0775	0.0788
Saudi Riyal	0.1805	0.1815
Kuwaiti Dinar	---	---
Qatari Riyal	0.1837	0.1846
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2170
Omani Riyal	1.7350	1.7440
UAE Dirham	0.1837	0.1846
Greek Drachma	0.3530	0.3820
Cypriot Pound	1.4916	1.5075

Per 100

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	24/11/91	Close	25/11/91	Close
All-Share	125.00	124.74	124.74	124.74
Banking Sector	105.38	104.87	104.87	104.87
Insurance Sector	126.44	126.90	126.90	126.90
Industry Sector	154.03	154.06	154.06	154.06
Services Sector	138.97	138.94	138.94	138.94

December 31, 1990 = 100

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.7925/35	U.S. dollar	1.364/69
One U.S. dollar	1.5940/50	Canadian dollar	1.7907/17
	1.4165/72	Deutsche mark	32.84/88
	5.4350/4400	Swiss franc	1203/1204
	128.45/55	Belgian franc	5.8250/8300
	6.2650/2700	French franc	6.1775/25
	6.1775/25	Italian lire	366.80/367.30
One ounce of gold	366.80/367.30	Japanese yen	
		Swedish crowns	
		Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	
		U.S. dollars	

## U.N. urges revolutionary steps to overcome cash crisis

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United Nations won't be able to meet its bills beyond the end of the month unless some of its members, who owe nearly a billion dollars, pay up soon, according to a U.N. report Monday.

"In summary, the situation has now deteriorated to the point of crisis," Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said in proposing a package of revolutionary measures to deal with the organization's perennial cash crunch.

These include charging interest on unpaid assessments, setting up a billion dollars U.N. peace endowment fund with contribution from governments, the private sector and individuals and, as a last resort, borrowing money on a commercial basis.

As of Oct. 31, U.N. members owed \$524.6 million in regular budget dues, including \$386.2 million for 1991 and the rest for previous years. Another \$463.5 million was outstanding for peacekeeping operations, for a grand total of \$988.1 million.

The United States, which is assessed 25 per cent of the U.N. regular budget and an even larger share of peacekeeping operations, has been paying some of its arrears, but by the end of October still owed a total of \$485.4 million.

"The failure of member states to pay their assessed contributions, whether for the regular budget or for peacekeeping operations, in full and on time, has kept the United Nations on the brink of insolvency for a number of years," the secretary-general said.

"The payments received to date for the regular budget are only sufficient to meet budget requirements until the end of November," added Mr. Perez de Cuellar.

By the end of September, only 57 U.N. members had paid their regular budget assessments in full while another 102 were in arrears, many owing more than one year's dues.

U.N. membership now totals 166, with the addition of seven countries during September.

The U.N. chief said: "It is a source of profound concern to me that the same membership which deems it appropriate to entrust the United Nations secretariat with unprecedented new responsibilities has not taken the necessary action to ensure, at the same time, that the minimum financial resources required to carry out

Javier Perez de Cuellar

those responsibilities are provided on a reliable and predictable basis."

The United Nations already has seven peacekeeping operations financed by assessed contributions — on the Golan Heights, in southern Lebanon, Angola, Central America, in Western Sahara, on the Iraq-Kuwait border, and in El Salvador.

One of its most ambitious operations, expected to cost more than \$1 billion, will soon begin in Cambodia.

The interest from the proposed \$1 billion U.N. peace endowment fund, likely to take years to raise, would be used to finance the start-up costs of future U.N. peacekeeping operations and related activities.

A few U.N. specialized agencies already have authority to borrow money commercially.

Other steps proposed by the secretary-general include raising the U.N. working capital fund from \$100 million to \$250 million.

## 4 words boost dollar

LONDON (R) — German Economics Minister Juergen Moellmann single-handedly boosted the dollar, the pound sterling and European shares at the mid-session Tuesday by saying he foresaw no rise in his country's interest rates.

Asked at a conference in London whether he saw German interest rates going up before they came down again Mr. Moellmann said "I don't believe so."

The four words boosted the dollar to 1.5935 marks and the pound sterling to 2.8560 marks. The dollar closed in Europe Monday at 1.5850 marks, with the pound at 2.8488 marks.

Both currencies had been suffering from speculation the German central bank would raise interest rates before the end of the year.

"It's definitely taken some of the shine off the mark and people are jostling to cover their more exposed dollar positions now," said a trader at a U.S. securities house in London.

Against the yen, the dollar was 128.53 compared with Monday's close in Europe of 127.80.

Mr. Moellmann's comments also lit a fuse under both British and French shares, already on the rise after taking heart from Wall Street's steady close Monday and Tokyo's first rise in two weeks.

German shares, which had also been moving higher, seemingly took little notice of the economics minister's remarks.

Gold lost \$2.15 to \$366.85 an ounce, while the January futures contract for North Sea Brent blend crude oil dropped 17 cents to \$19.88 a barrel on London's International Petroleum Exchange.

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Stocks staged a technical recovery after nine days of losses to close firmer but off their day's highs. The 225-share Nikkei average was up 243.40 points or 1.06 per cent to 23,112.09, with about 200 million shares traded.

PARIS — Bargain hunting pushed up prices in the bourse's first strong rise since Wall Street's Nov. 15 mini-crash but traders predicted falling prices round the corner. The CAC-40 Index rose 25.72 point or 1.48 per cent to close at 1,768.97.

ZURICH — Swiss shares rose slightly, helped by a technical recovery and bargain-hunting. The SPI Index ended up 10.9 points at 1,057.6.

LONDON — Shares closed up but off the day's highs as a weaker Wall Street tempered encouraging German interest rate news. The FTSE 100 index rose 15.3 points to 2,471.5.

NEW YORK — Stocks dropped but steadied off early lows in the afternoon. Traders blamed fading consumer confidence and concern over possible administration moves to stimulate the economy. The Dow was 23 down at 2,878.

## Algerian businesses ordered to repatriate foreign currency

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's central bank has told Algerian companies holding foreign currency abroad to repatriate it within 120 days or face losing the right to trade overseas.

The Algerian news agency APS quoted a statement from the Bank of Algeria saying they must return earnings from their exports.

"All businesses ... presenting an irregular situation over exchange control will find themselves banned from access to external trade," it said.

It pointed out that companies

could not legally maintain currency or commission overseas earned from import contracts.

The bank urged companies to regularise their situation immediately.

Government officials were not available to comment on the step which follows pessimistic statements on the state of the country's foreign currency reserves.

Parliamentary speaker Abdul Aziz Belkhadem told parliament last week that reserves were estimated for Oct. 31 at just over \$1 billion. At the same date, the bank had to pay foreign creditors

\$1.3 billion, he said.

Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali told parliament Sunday a \$560 million loan from the European Community (EC) would be freed around mid-December.

"Up to today the loans from the IMF and (French bank) Credit Lyonnais have not been released. We are expecting money from the EC loan after Dec. 15," he said.

Algeria negotiated a standby credit with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for \$400 million in June but later renegotiated some of the terms after a change in government.

The EC loan, to support debt-hit Algeria's balance of payments, compares with the nearly \$900 million which the North African country had requested.

A consortium of eight banks, led by Credit Lyonnais, agreed in September to offer Algeria a \$1.1 billion debt-refinancing package.

Mr. Ghozali told parliament that Algeria was attempting to tackle a critical shortage of foreign currency by selling oil in advance.

## Maxwell family wins reprieve from bankers on \$1.4b debt



Robert Maxwell

"I can say on behalf of my brother and I that we are very pleased at the outcome of this meeting," he said.

A senior official from National Westminster Bank PLC, leader of the bank group, said the meeting was not acrimonious, adding the banks were "actively exploring the way forward."

The Maxwells gave no details of their proposals. But bankers who attended the meeting said they had sought a temporary freeze on debt repayments, which will be considered by a committee.

Bankers' fears about the family companies were deepened when it was revealed last week that Britain's Serious Fraud Office is investigating a £55 million (\$99 million) loan to a family company by Swiss Bank Corporation.

The bank called in the loan, saying shares it had been promised as collateral were not available.

But a Swiss bank spokesman said after the meeting his bank had agreed to take no further action on the loan pending negotiations between the family and the bank committee.

"The natural instinct of bankers in a situation like this is to try to have an orderly resolution," the spokesman said. "Clearly that's a preferable solution."

Shares in Maxwell Communication Corp, the public company controlled by the family and chaired by Mr. Kevin Maxwell, rose 9.0 pence to 45 pence after the meeting.

The steep fall in the company's share price since publishing tycoon Robert Maxwell died mysteriously at sea earlier this month was another factor that had heightened bankers' nerves.

The shares have plunged

almost 70 per cent, leaving lenders who have debt secured against the shares with gaping holes in their collateral.

At stake for the Maxwell family is keeping hold of two assets it desperately wants to keep — the publicly listed Mirror Group Newspapers PLC and the New York Daily News.

Some of the family's 51 per cent stake in Mirror Group has also been pledged as security against loans and analysts say a last resort for the banks could be to force the family to sell part of the holding.

The loss-making Daily News, owned privately by the family, is forecast by Mr. Kevin Maxwell to be profitable next year.

Other family assets range from a North Sea helicopter company to market research firm AGF International.

Bankers said there are no firm proposals yet from the family about specific asset sales. Negotiations are likely to last weeks or even months.

"We didn't expect this meeting to be anything more than getting the show on the road," one said. "We expected it to be just the starting point and that's exactly what we have achieved."

## Court declares Nadir bankrupt

LONDON (R) — Asil Nadir, former chairman of the troubled Polly Peck Group, has been declared bankrupt following legal action by a group of creditor banks, a lawyer acting for one of the banks said Tuesday.

No comment was immediately available from Mr. Nadir's lawyers.

A British court sitting in private Monday ruled Mr. Nadir bankrupt after action by Den Norske Bank and nine other international banks, said a lawyer from legal firm Stephenson Harwood, which acted for the

Norwegian bank.

"We have taken appropriate steps to put Mr. Nadir into bankruptcy and his affairs will now be put into the hands of a trustee," the lawyer said in a telephone interview.

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The German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) is implementing jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture a forestry seed centre. For this purpose a cool storage room is required. Companies with experience in installing cool storage rooms or similar facilities could provide their offers until the 10th of December to the GTZ administration office. The necessary documents to prepare the offer could be collected at:

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P.O.Box 926238, Amman-Jordan  
Tel.: 667021 / 660080  
Code: Forestry Seed Centre, Cool Storage



# Azerbaijan debates martial law after helicopter crash

MOSCOW (R) — Azerbaijan's parliament debated Tuesday whether to declare martial law in the southern republic and break economic ties with neighboring Armenia, local news reports said.

The Asa-Itada Agency said thousands demonstrated outside parliament in the republic's capital Baku demanding tough action after an unarmed helicopter crashed last Wednesday. At least 20 people aboard were killed.

Azerbaijani officials have said the aircraft was shot down by Armenian militants in the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh. But Armenia says it crashed in fog over the mountainous enclave.

Armenian leaders Levon Ter-Petrosyan has described Azerbaijan's parliamentary debate as tantamount to declaring war.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev Monday proposed creating a 10-kilometre Soviet-patrolled zone between Armenians and Azeris, who have been fighting a guerrilla war over Nagorno-Karabakh for the past three years.

Mr. Gorbachev and seven republican leaders invited the presidents of both Transcaucasian republics to Moscow this week to discuss how to stop the conflict escalating.

"The situation is extremely explosive now. It is on the brink of real war," Mr. Gorbachev told reporters after meeting the republican leaders.

Several details emerged from Tuesday's parliament debate in Baku. Local journalists said the session had been addressed by President Ayaz Muttalibov.

In addition to martial law and breaking ties with Armenia, deputies were to discuss mobilising Azeris serving in the Soviet army as well as scrapping Nagorno-Karabakh's autonomous status and incorporating it into Azerbaijan.

Fighting over Nagorno-Karabakh, which is claimed by both Azerbaijan and Armenia, has taken more than 800 lives since 1980. The territory, mostly populated by Armenians but run from Baku since 1923, is completely enclosed by Azerbaijan.

A spokesman for the Soviet Interior Ministry said the situation was "extremely tense" not only in Nagorno-Karabakh but in the entire region.

A six-man Soviet military patrol was attacked Sunday night 27 kilometres outside Baku. "The patrol fired back, killing three and wounding four Azeris," the spokesman said.

He also said there had been several incidents in regions

around Nagorno-Karabakh in recent days, including an explosion at a power station and frequent gunfire in and around the enclave.

Since last August's failed Soviet coup accelerated the breakdown of central power, Soviet Interior Ministry troops stationed around the patchwork of Armenian and Azeri border villages have kept a low profile.

But Gorbachev's proposal for setting up a buffer zone suggested he might be ready to step up their involvement.

Armenia and Azerbaijan are among 10 Soviet republics which have declared independence from Moscow. It was not clear whether either would welcome a stronger Soviet presence in the region.

The Armenian mission in Moscow said the republic would probably reject Mr. Gorbachev's proposal on the grounds that it would cut contacts between Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia.

In a separate development, Iran's foreign minister said Tehran wishes to develop its relations with largely Muslim Azerbaijan within the framework of the Soviet Union and will not recognise its independence.

"As regards our relations with other republics and the recognition of Azerbaijan's independence, its independence will not be recognised," Ali Akbar Velayati told the radio station Ekho Moskvy (Moscow Echo) Monday.

"Relations will develop within the framework of the Soviet Union."

Azerbaijan, like Iran, is populated mainly by Shiite Muslims. Relations between the two have become closer as Tehran has warmed to Moscow since Soviet troops withdrew from Afghanistan.

Mr. Velayati, who held talks with Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze Monday, is due to visit Azerbaijan and five other mainly Muslim republics during a 10-day stay.

Turkey, which has close cultural and linguistic ties to Azerbaijan, is the only country to have recognised the restoration of its 1918-1921 independence.

But the Nega News Agency quoted a senior Turkish diplomat Monday as saying that his country still regarded Azerbaijan as an integral part of the Soviet Union.

The diplomat, Riza Erkinmuglu, identified as an adviser to Turkey's permanent representative to NATO, also said Ankara would observe strict neutrality if full-scale hostilities broke out between Azerbaijan and neighbouring Armenia.

## Congress negotiators agree on Soviet aid

WASHINGTON (R) — Congressional negotiators have tentatively approved use of up to \$300 million of U.S. defence money to fly emergency food and medicine to Soviet republics this winter and to help destroy half of Moscow's nuclear weapons.

Sponsors said the aid was needed to head off food riots that could topple Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and keep Soviet nuclear weapons out of the hands of terrorists, independent Soviet republics or Third World nations.

"I must say candidly that it is not beyond question that there could be a breakdown in social order... that could bring down the current government," Intelligence Committee Chairman David Boren, an Oklahoma Democrat, told the Senate.

Negotiators from the Senate and House of Representatives working on an \$8 billion supplemental appropriation bill tentatively approved use of up to \$400 million for destruction of Soviet nuclear weapons and up to \$100 million for flying emergency food and medicine to Soviet republics.

Approval of the Soviet aid in the supplemental bill would virtually assure final approval by Congress before it adjourns for the year this week.

Negotiators hoped to complete the supplemental bill Tuesday. It contains several provisions that President George Bush has threatened to veto, but negotiators were trying to work out compromises to avoid that.

The Senate approved \$700 million for the Soviet aid earlier but House supplemental negotiators said \$500 million was the most the Defence Department could afford.

The Senate voted 87-7 to authorise Mr. Bush to spend up to \$200 million to fly food, medicine and other relief directly to Soviet republics with emergency needs this winter.

The Senate also voted 86-5 to authorise up to \$500 million of U.S. defence money to help Mr. Gorbachev carry out destruction of about half an estimated 30,000 nuclear weapons.

Influential senators and House members hoped to win final approval of the aid in the House before Congress adjourns.

The aid was tackled onto legislation carrying out U.S. implementation of the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty limiting non-nuclear East-West forces in Europe.

The Senate ratified the CFE treaty 90-4. It later approved the arms transfer legislation containing the aid package.

Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sam Nunn, a Georgia Democrat, said Soviet officials had asked for Western assistance in carrying out Mr. Gorbachev's plan to destroy the 15,000 weapons.

The U.S. aid would help Soviet experts transport the nuclear weapons, store them and destroy them.

### WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

#### 37 killed in Soviet plane crash

MOSCOW (R) — Thirty-seven people were killed Tuesday in a plane crash in the Soviet autonomous Republic of Tatarstan, Soviet News Agency (TASS) said. The plane, an Antonov-24, crashed while landing at Bugulma Airport after a flight from the West Siberian oil-producing city of Nizhnevartovsk. TASS said all 33 passengers and four crew members were killed and an investigation was being conducted. It gave no further details. Tatarstan, on the Volga River, is one of many autonomous republics within the Russian Federation.

#### Actor Klaus Kinski dies aged 65

LAGUNITAS, California (R) — Klaus Kinski, the Polish-born actor known for his portrayal of obsessed characters in such films as *Fitzcarraldo* and *Delirium*, died of a heart attack at his home in Berlin. He was 65. A spokeswoman for the Berlin Court Coroner's Office said late Monday that Kinski's body was found Saturday by a family friend. Further details were not immediately available. Kinski, father of actress Nastassja Kinski, acted in some 200 films in an international career that began in 1948 following experience on the stage in Berlin. Born Klaus Günther Kinski in Danzig, Poland, Kinski was best known for the tormented characters he played in three films made by German director Werner Herzog. He played the lead role in *Aguirre, The Wrath of God* (1973), about a power-mad Spanish conquistador who leads a small group of followers to destruction in search of the fabled city of El Dorado, and later starred in *Nosferatu* (1979), a remake of the classic silent vampire movie. Kinski and Nastassja Kinski's mother, German writer Ruth Brigitte, separated in the late 1960s. Kinski had two other children — Pola, an actress, and a son, Nandor — by other wives.

#### Moi aide arrested — Kenyan journalists

NAIROBI (R) — Kenyan journalists said Tuesday former Industry Minister Nicholas Biwott, a close aide of President Daniel Arap Moi, had been arrested. The reported arrest came eight days after Mr. Biwott was named by a British detective as one of the two main suspects in the murder of Foreign Minister Robert Ouko 20 months ago. The journalists, from the Nation newspaper, said they had been told of Tuesday's arrest by police. The journalists said Hezekiah Oyugi and three other people had also been arrested. Oyugi, internal security chief at the time of Ouko's death, was the other person named by British detective John Troon Nov. 18 as a principal suspect in the killing. Oyugi, internal security chief at the time of Ouko's death, was the other person named by British detective John Troon Nov. 18 as a principal suspect in the killing.

#### First lady: Sununu will not be fired

WASHINGTON (R) — Barbara Bush has denied that she blames White House Chief of Staff John Sununu for President George Bush's mounting political problems and Mr. Bush's spokesman said Mr. Sununu was in no danger of being fired. The show of solidarity for Mr. Sununu's beleaguered chief aide came amid reports of disarray in the White House and rumours that even Mrs. Bush was unhappy with Mr. Sununu's performance. "It isn't true and it's ugly, and I don't like it. He knows it's not true," she told reporters at a brief ceremony marking delivery of the White House Christmas tree. The very fact that the genial first lady — not nearly so actively political as some recent predecessors — had to field such questions at such an event was a good indication that talk about a White House in crisis is rife again in Washington. Blame often lands on the chief of staff when a president's poll ratings plunge, as Mr. Bush's are now. Shortly before Mrs. Bush spoke, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said he did not believe Mr. Sununu was in any danger of being fired. "I don't think it's ever been in danger, near as I can tell, Mr. Fitzwater said when asked, if Mr. Sununu's job was safe.

#### Indian kidnappers free Romanian envoy

NEW DELHI (R) — Romanian diplomat Liviu Radu, released by Sikh militants in Punjab after a seven-week abduction which sparked a huge manhunt, took a train and taxi home Tuesday following an "interesting and novel experience." A constable at the police barrier outside his house told the envoy to show his identity card before letting him in. Mr. Radu, looking fit, told reporters he was put on a slow train in Punjab, the northern state where Sikhs are fighting for a homeland. Monday night, he arrived in Delhi after a 12-hour journey and took a taxi home from the railway station. Mr. Radu, 53, said he was held in Delhi and in villages in Punjab. "It was a very interesting and novel experience. It is a facet of India I hadn't seen. Now I can say my knowledge is complete." The Romanian charge d'affaires in India was kidnapped by armed Sikh militants as he drove to work on Oct. 9. He was acting as ambassador at the time. "They showed me a gun and said come with us," Radu said, speaking to reporters in the garden of his bungalow.

## Seoul: North must unconditionally accept inspections

SEOUL (R) — North Korea, under mounting world pressure, has said for the first time it will allow inspection of secret nuclear facilities as soon as the United States begins removing its nuclear weapons from South Korea.

The announcement, contained in a Foreign Ministry statement issued late Monday, was couched in conciliatory language and appeared to signal a step forward in the long, acrimonious dispute over whether or not North Korea is secretly developing nuclear weapons.

The announcement drew some mixed signals from South Korean officials.

"We are carefully examining the Northern announcement though it doesn't mean a major change of North Korean position on the nuclear issue," a senior Foreign Ministry official in Seoul said.

"Our position is that the Northern side must unconditionally sign the nuclear safeguards accord with the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) and submit its facilities to inspections," the official said.

But another senior official said: "They softened their stance this time. The Northern announcement shows they have already made the decision to sign the safeguards agreement."

## U.S. returns largest overseas air base to Manila

CLARK AIR BASE, Philippines (R) — The United States Tuesday formally returned control to the Philippines of Clark Air Base, an American military outpost for 90 years and until last June the largest U.S. air base overseas.

Global defence cuts and the ending of the cold war with the Soviet Union meant it was not worth the large cost to rebuild Clark after the nearby Mount Pinatubo wrecked the base five months ago in one of the century's biggest volcanic eruptions.

The U.S. 13th Air Force, based at Clark, has been transferred to the U.S. Pacific territory of Guam and other functions of the base have been shifted to Alaska or units in other parts of Asia, U.S. officials said.

Despite reductions in its regional force levels, the United States pledged to continue helping to maintain peace and stability in Asia.

"The cold war that has defined our lives and the security interests of our nations for nearly half a century has come to an end... (but) we know that the job of national security has not ended," said U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner.

"The... Philippines can count on the United States to maintain its shield of defence over the shores of Asia. America will not abandon its interests and ties to the nations of the area," he said during the handover ceremony.

A symbolic golden key to Clark was presented to Philippine Armed Forces Chief General Leandro Abad by General Jimmy Adams, commander-in-chief

## Bush's approval rating takes a plunge

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush's approval rating has plunged to its lowest level since he took office in 1989, pushed down by concern over the stagnant U.S. economy.

Opinion polls released Monday night showed that only 51 per cent of Americans surveyed approve of the overall job Mr. Bush is doing as president, down more than 10 percentage points from a month earlier.

A joint CBS Television-New York Times poll found that less than half of respondents now think Mr. Bush will be reelected to a second term next November, down from two-thirds in October.

A poll by NBC Television found only 27 per cent of those questioned approved of Mr. Bush's handling of the economy, while 65 per cent said they disapproved.

"I don't believe these polls," Mr. Bush said in a television interview Monday. "I didn't believe them when they were 86 per cent either."

Mr. Bush's approval rating soared into the 90 per cent range after he organised the multinational coalition that drove Iraq from Kuwait in February. Since then, his popularity has steadily declined.

But for the moment Mr. Bush is resisting pressure to change either his policies or his staff.

He is standing by his embattled Chief of Staff, John Sununu, under fire from other Bush aides, Republican legislators and party leaders from his abrasive, authoritarian style and alleged ineffectiveness in keeping the administration organised.

With the economy at a near standstill and presidential elections looming in 1992, Mr. Bush is also coming under pressure from both Democrats and conservatives in his own party to abandon his decision to stand firm on his economic policies.

Moving to deflect their criticism, Mr. Bush Monday gave half-hearted support to a House of Representatives Republican effort to tack a package of tax cuts onto a bill to bail out failed savings banks.

The plan, which was to be introduced in the House Tuesday, stands little chance of passage since Congress is about to adjourn.

President Bush said Monday he would veto a sweeping anti-crime bill that includes a national waiting period for handgun sales, saying the "sure" would weaken our criminal justice system.

"Let me be clear, I would have to veto this legislation because it would weaken our criminal justice system," Mr. Bush said in a speech in Columbus, Ohio.

A House-Senate negotiating committee reached agreement on the bill Sunday night despite Republican protests that it had been weakened too much. The bill still had to be passed by the House and Senate before it can go to Mr. Bush.

## 2 die in attack on Osijek; peace efforts gather pace

BELGRADE (R) — Efforts to restore peace in the Yugoslav Republic of Croatia gathered pace Tuesday although rocket attacks by Serbian guerrillas were reported to have killed two people in the eastern town of Osijek.

Croatian radio reported that the town of Podravska Slatina further west was also hit and that fighting broke out around Nova Gradiska in central Croatia.

But a U.N.-sponsored ceasefire which took force Sunday appeared to be holding elsewhere in Croatia, where thousands of people have been killed in fighting since its declaration of independence in June.

The U.N. Security Council in New York began consultations on proposals by its special envoy Cyrus Vance which could lead to the deployment of U.N. peacekeeping troops if the truce holds.

Ed Koestel, spokesman for the European Community (EC) peace mission in Croatia, said in Zagreb that Vance would return to Yugoslavia in a few days.

The former American secretary of state, who persuaded Serbia, Croatia and the Serbian-led army to sign the 14th ceasefire of the conflict, will discuss problems surrounding the positioning of United Nations forces.

Mr. Koestel said plans were also being made to send a humanitarian convoy to the Croatian town of Vukovar, which surrendered to the army last week after a three-month siege. The town has been virtually flattened by air and artillery attacks.

Croatian radio said the Zagreb government and the army would exchange all prisoners of war Thursday. The army is holding 3,300 members of the Croatian National Guard and police and Croatia has 2,100 army prisoners.

Tanjug News Agency said captured Yugoslav army General Milan Aksehtijevic was exchanged Monday evening for Anton Kikas, a Canadian of Croatian origin, who was detained by the army on suspicion of arms smuggling.

The rump federal presidency — representing only Serbia and its allies since a boycott by Croatia and Slovenia — said

Monday it supported the ceasefire.

The presidency is acting as the supreme commander of the federal armed forces.

"The Yugoslav People's Army will consistently respect the ceasefire, as the armed formations of Croatia should do," it said.

The army and rebel Serbs have taken control of the one third of Croatia's territory predominantly populated by Serbs and want to protect their gains by placing U.N. peacekeeping forces at the present front line.

Croatia wants the U.N. force placed at its present borders which Serbia calls purely administrative.

In Bonn, German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said Monday European Community states must recognise Croatia and Slovenia after an EC deadline runs out next month.

Bonn will officially back the breakthrough Yugoslav republics after the Dec. 10 deadline and expects its EC partners to do the same, he told German radio.

"The deadline for a political solution runs out on Dec. 10 and recognition must then follow," said Mr. Genscher, who came under renewed attack at the weekend from conservative critics over the EC's failure to stop the fighting.

"We will do it, because we expect all other partners will stick to this date like we will," Mr. Genscher later met Croatian Foreign Minister Zvonimir Separovic, who said Zagreb "hoped, requested and demanded" diplomatic recognition next month.

"That would be the best Christmas present of all," he told journalists after meeting Mr. Genscher to prepare a visit by Croatian President Franjo Tudjman to Bonn next week.

Mr. Genscher said the German government wanted to discuss the conditions for recognition with Mr. Tudjman, especially guarantees of rights for ethnic minorities.

He said Germany was increasing its humanitarian aid to Croatia by four million marks to 10 million marks (\$6.3 million).

## Indonesia condemns critics over East Timor shootings

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia said Tuesday that foreign donors reviewing aid policies after the army killing of civilians in East Timor had reacted too quickly.

"We regret that several countries hastily gave their judgement on the incident and related it to foreign assistance," the official Antara News Agency quoted State Secretary Mardiono as saying.

Indonesia says its army killed 19 people when troops opened fire on a crowd of unarmed mourners in the former Portuguese colony on Nov. 12.

Amnesty International says the death toll was much higher and could reach 200 while the Australian government says 75 people were killed.

Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said the Netherlands was suspending aid until the outcome of an Indonesian government investigation while Canada was reviewing its aid policy.

"(Aid donors) should not take positions based on press reports. This is unfortunate. They should have waited for the investigation committee first," Mr. Alatas told the news agency.

The commission is due in East Timor Thursday and has promised to be impartial.

Witnesses have largely contradicted the army version of events. They say troops deliberately and without provocation opened sustained fire on more than 3,000 people mourning the death of an opponent of Indonesian rule.

Indonesia relies on the west and Japan for more than \$5 billion a year of fresh aid.

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## Column

### Architect unveils world's first revolving building

SYDNEY (R) — An Australian architect unveiled plans Tuesday for the world's first revolving office tower and said he would build it overseas unless Sydney agreed to put it next to the famous Harbour Bridge and Opera House. The radical design, one of a number of options for a building overlooking Australia's two most famous landmarks, would rotate every two days. "We have designed the tower for Sydney, it would do justice to our national symbols but if it is not appreciated here we will take it overseas," Hassell Architects Managing Director Tony Pegrum told reporters. "There is no other building anywhere like it in the world, we have the world copyright on the design," Mr. Pegrum said. The steel structure, using existing technology, would have two massive turning mechanisms comprising roller bearings travelling on a fixed bearing plate. The leaf-shaped building with a planned 36 levels, would be one of Sydney's tallest but the development site near the Opera House has been dogged by a row over planning approvals with local authorities. The planned building is in two sections, one on top of the other, both of which have a slewing or turning ring underneath. Roller bearings, 80 cm (2ft 8ins) in diameter, travel on a fixed bearing plate mounted on a concrete support. Existing bearings comparable loads are used in turntables for rolling stock, shiploading facilities, cranes at ship repair yards and on oil rigs. Each of the sections weight 40,000 tonnes.

### Taiwan 30 parents give whips to teachers

TAIPEI (R) — The parents' association of an unruly Taiwanese secondary school has presented an unusual gift to school authorities — 67 rattan whips. "This is encouragement for us to use appropriate punishment to keep order, though we hope we'll never have to use these whips," a senior teacher at Chupei Junior High School in Hsinchu County said by telephone Tuesday. Two teachers were assaulted by students on campus this month. One is still in hospital. The education ministry bans corporal punishment but some Taiwanese parents still approve of the practice, which continues in some schools. Two teachers were given suspended jail sentences in September for beating a girl student.

### Australia bans imports of pit bull terriers, other dogs

CANBERRA (R) — The Australian government has decided to ban the import of pit bull terriers and three other breeds of dog considered dangerous to the public, Resources Minister Alan Griffiths announced Monday. The ban will apply to the Japanese Tosa, the Dogo Argentino and the Fila Brasileiro as well as to genetic material such as semen and frozen embryos, Mr. Griffiths said. The decision was in response to a spate of attacks on children by dangerous dogs, he said in a statement. The pit bull terrier has been involved in several fatal attacks in its native United States and the dogs were a source of great concern in Australia, he said. "The Dogo Argentino is derived from the Cordobean fighting dog which was a uniquely fierce dog and the Japanese Tosa is a particularly aggressive fighting breed," he said. Dog import applications will have to be accompanied by declarations that the animal is not dangerous, has no aggressive tendencies and has not been bred or trained as a fighter.

### Michael Jackson's rhinestone glove could fetch \$45,000

LONDON (R) — A single white rhinestone glove worn by American superstar Michael Jackson could fetch up to \$25,000 (\$45,000) when it is auctioned at Christie's in London next month. The glove, which is encrusted with simulated diamonds and fastens at the cuff with a single hook, became famous after the 1983 release of Jackson's best-selling Thriller Album. "I felt that wearing one glove was cool... wearing two gloves seemed ordinary, but a single glove was definitely a look," Jackson said in his autobiography, Moonwalk. The glove will go under the hammer at a pop sale on Dec. 19. Christie's expects as much as \$45,000 for it.